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Leyland men may accept pay reform proposals

British Leyland management and unions last night took a significant step towards reforming the car company's chaotic wage structure.

Agreement is much nearer on the introduction of centralized pay bargaining in British Leyland and that should encourage the Government to continue investing public money in the state-owned company. A further £50m of National Enterprise Board capital is expected in November.

The breakthrough came last night when 70 Transport and General Workers' Union (TGWU) shop stewards from Leyland Cars, meeting in Banbury, agreed to drop their hard-line opposition to national wage determination. They voted overwhelmingly to begin negotiations on the company's pay reforms after minutes had privately communicated their fears about the company's future.

Their agreement, which marked a decisive policy shift from their position of three weeks ago, was taken up at a meeting last night of the executive of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions representing all workers at Leyland Cars. Leyland management attended the meeting at Brighton where union leaders are at the Labour Party conference.

Government approval will still be needed when a final deal is negotiated, because workers in many other industries look to motor manufacturers for the pattern of their wage bargaining. But the company will argue that the new structure offers a way out of the jungle of Leyland pay rates which have bedevilled production and profitability.

The transport union shop stewards, who represent most manual workers in Leyland Cars, said they would be prepared to discuss the introduction of centralized bargaining in 1978, provided they got full satisfaction on their own demands for shop stewards to negotiate incentive bonus schemes at plant level; full staff status for 'blue collar' workers and 'comparability' of wages.

The transport workers are insisting that local bargaining on incentive schemes should be permitted as soon as possible because different wage agreements in parts of the Leyland empire are causing confusion and conflict. They also want a 'vacuum' staff status for all workers.

Mr. M. J. Evans, TGWU general secretary, said that the company gave the go-ahead for self-financing productivity schemes.

Concorde over another hurdle

New York, Oct. 6.—The United States Court of Appeals today turned down requests from the operators of Kennedy Airport for a 30-day stay of the court's order allowing Concorde test flights there.

Although they have now received the go-ahead, Concorde operators, Air France and British Airways, are expected to start flights into Kennedy Airport for between two and three weeks.

Datsun puts Vauxhall into fourth place

By Stephen Goodwin

Imported cars won more than 50 per cent of the United Kingdom market during September for the second month running. Japanese Datsun cars became the third biggest selling name in Britain.

Although at 103,446 the number of new models sold was 18 per cent more than in September, 1976, preliminary figures from the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders reflect the grim plight of the home industry.

The figures suggest that the record 50.8 per cent penetration by foreign cars in August was no fluke. Last month's figure was only marginally down at 50.5 per cent.

Leyland was the market leader in September with a 23.3 per cent share, including 390 Belgian-assembled Allegros. Ford was second, but Datsun outstripped Vauxhall to become the third biggest car seller in Britain with an 8.7 per cent market share.

How the taxmen picked up £4.5m from those little 'irregularities' in PAYE

By Margaret Stone

If you find our present tax system complicated and almost impossible to understand it may be some consolation to know that the boss has the same difficulty.

Nearly half the companies visited in an Inland Revenue spot check in 1975-76 were in a middle order PAYE, but they did at least pay in favour of the taxman. The residue, however, was temporary and the taxman has since recovered £4.5m in unpaid taxes.

There was no particular intention to defraud just a mere matter of 'irregularities' which arose from such things as the failure to report the engagement of part-time workers or to deduct tax from overtime and bonus payments.

Doctors emphasize that survey findings should not alarm women over 35 unduly

Smoking and the pill increase heart disease risk

By John Roper

Health Services Correspondent

The risk of death from heart disease is much greater among women who are over 35 years old and who take the contraceptive pill and smoke cigarettes, according to two studies reported in the Lancet today.

But in a joint statement the presidents of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and the Royal College of General Practitioners said that the results must be interpreted with the greatest possible care. Although they were statistically significant, the total number of deaths was small: 24 among users and former users of the pill and five among non-users in a study of 46,000 women.

The joint statement said all women over 35 should reconsider their use of the pill. Some would be willing to accept the additional risks but others would want to stop. For women under 30 there was no evidence to justify any change; but even for them the advantages of not smoking must be emphasized.

Some women between 30 and 34 should consult their doctors about using the pill. It was wisest to assume that there was a gradual increase in risk with age, particularly for those who had used the pill for five years or more and smoked.

Giving up smoking could reduce the risk of heart disease to an acceptable point, bearing in mind all factors, including the hazards of disruption of family life if there was an unwanted child.

But the doctors emphasized that there was no advantage for any woman to make a sudden change, either discontinuing the pill or seeking other methods of contraception, because the pill took several years to affect the cardiovascular system.

The Lancet, in a leading article, says that little is going to dismay the many women who regard oral contraceptives as a blessing carrying a minute risk of premature death. Doctors, whose task it is to interpret the news, would have to say that the danger now appeared to be greater than it once seemed but was still, in the absence of other risk factors, very small for younger women.

A letter to all doctors from Sir Eric Sower, chairman of the Committee on Safety of Drugs, says that the committee considered the two studies and concluded that the numbers were too small to allow precise conclusions about the risk of using the pill or the residual risk that might remain after it was discontinued.

The findings were, however, in line with the trend noted in previous investigations that the risk of thrombosis increased with age in women taking the pill and that it was aggravated by cigarette smoking.

During the studies big changes had occurred in the composition of oral contraceptives. There has been a progressive reduction in the oestrogen content of the pill, and some preparations containing the other component, progestogen—norgestrel acetate—have been removed from the market.

In the committee's view the present studies did not indicate the need for any change in the warnings and precautions for oral contraceptives except the importance of the increased risk for older women, especially those who smoked cigarettes.

Dr Clifford Kay, director of the Royal College of General Practitioners' Manchester research unit, and one of the authors of the survey of 46,000 women, said yesterday that about 300,000 women over 35 were estimated to be taking the pill. There was thought to be a similar number between 30 and 35.

A previous study had found that deaths among women on the pill from thrombosis were two per 100,000. The excess death rate from all circulatory disorders over those found in the control group in the college's study was: age up to 34 one per 20,000 a year; 35-44 one per 3,000; and 45-49, one per 700. The average figure was one in 5,000.

The risk of death for a woman who smoked and took the pill was about twelve times that of a non-smoker not on the pill. The report suggests that pill users may be predisposed to a wider range of circulatory disorders than previously thought.

The study, which is continuing, was begun in 1968.

Women were recruited by 1,400 family doctors, who recorded all new episodes of illness among 23,000 users of the pill and 23,000 control subjects matched for age and marital status.

It found that women who had used oral contraceptives had a mortality rate from circulatory diseases that was 4.7 times that of women who had never used the pill.

The findings indicated that the risk of disease increased with the duration of use of the pill and might persist after it was discontinued. The suggestion was that oral contraceptives induced changes in the circulatory system that were not immediately reversible, but it was premature to draw conclusions about the long-term and residual vascular effects. Further study was needed.

Question of safety, page 17

US sticks to firm line on human rights

Dessa Trevisan

Belgrade, Oct. 6

The impression that the United States was going to mute its remarks on human rights was dispelled here today. Mr. Arthur Goldberg, chairman of the American delegation, delivered a very firm and detailed condemnation of violations of human rights and failures to implement the Helsinki agreement of 1975, which is being reviewed in Belgrade in a follow-up conference of the 35 signatories.

It was the day of the big guns, with a relatively cautious speech by the Russians, a strong contribution from the French, and a disappointing lacklustre performance by the British.

Mr. Goldberg read the opening of his speech in Serbo-Croat, which pleased the Yugoslavs, although some said they were unable to understand him. He then read it again in English.

Mr. Goldberg did not mention specific countries or cases by name but he left absolutely no doubt about what and to whom he was referring. The naming of names is being held back for the general debate and the countries which will extend over many weeks.

He may also have wished to avoid provoking replies from the floor during this formal opening period. When the Greek delegate attacked Turkey this morning for violating the Helsinki Final Act, there was an extended altercation as the Turkish and Cypriot delegates exercised their rights of reply, promising fuller replies when the debate starts next week.

Mr. Goldberg said that the task of the conference was part of a great and ancient enterprise, the search for security and the advancement of co-operation in Europe. The Helsinki approach was unique in putting the emphasis on an equal footing and in formalizing the tie "between the freedom and welfare of each of our nations and the freedom and welfare of each of our individual citizens."

Mr. Goldberg said that the commitment to détente, he said, "A healing of the divisions in Europe cannot be divorced from progress in humanitarian matters and human rights. The pursuit of human rights does not put détente in jeopardy. Rather, it can strengthen détente and provide a firmer basis for both security and co-operation."

The United States, he said, would discuss concrete problems of both past and future implementation. Its goal was peace and it sought no confrontation. "We have no desire to trade debating points," he said. "We want to exchange ideas on how better to implement the Final Act. We seek a thorough, non-polemical, straightforward and detailed review of implementation."

He said there had been progress over the last 26 months, but not enough. Many of the high expectations remained unmet. The United States had played its part by, for instance, relaxing all restrictions on travel abroad and relaxing visa requirements for visitors. In some nations in the East advances had been only modest and there were individual cases where forward motion had been stalled or even reversed. Although some progress had been

Price increases slow to 7.8pc

A steep fall in inflation rates is indicated by the latest Price Commission early warning index. This recorded an annual rate increase of only 7.8 per cent for the six months to September. In August the figure was 11.7 per cent. The index, which reflects proposed increases in price movements generally, has in the past shown itself to be a reliable indicator on inflation trends. The Commission reported that price increases sought by large organizations during the last three months fell markedly.

Doctors discuss RUC 'brutality'

Ulster police doctors are meeting to discuss their growing concern over the Royal Ulster Constabulary's interrogation methods. Allegations of brutality and the suppression of medical reports of injuries sustained during questioning have recently increased, and the Social Democratic and Labour Party has moved the controversy into the political arena with a statement attacking the RUC and its chief constable, Mr. Kenneth Newman. Mr. Newman has said that the Director of Public Prosecutions has so far pursued only one case of alleged assault out of 215 suspects' complaints this year.

Miners' strike in Romania

Romania's coal miners went on strike in protest against food shortages and low pay in August, according to eye witnesses. It was the first strike since the establishment of communist rule 30 years ago. President Ceausescu intervened personally. It ended after two days, with the miners winning substantial concessions on their grievances. Strikes are illegal in Romania.

Nobel Prize for Spanish poet

Vicente Aleixandre, aged 79, the Spanish poet who was forced by his tuberculosis to remain in Spain under the Franco Government, has won the 1977 Nobel Prize for Literature. The Swedish Academy cited him for having shown "the strength to survive" and for poetry which "illuminates man's condition in the cosmos."

Plan to reduce price of beef

A radical change in the EEC's support system for beef that would, it is claimed, preserve producers' incomes but at the same time make beef cheaper in the shops has been proposed by the EEC Commissioner for Agriculture. The plan is also meant to reduce the Community's notorious beef 'mountain'.

Nato views on neutron bomb

Mr. Harold Brown, the American Defence Secretary, has begun a 10-day visit to Europe in which he will seek Nato views on deploying the neutron bomb, which kills by radiation, on the Continent.

United followers may be sued

Middlesbrough FC will take civil action against Manchester United supporters who misbehave in their crowd tomorrow. Signs reading "All rights of admission reserved" will be displayed away from the special enclosure reserved for United followers.

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European News	2, 4-6	Diary	14	Science	12, 15
Overseas News	8, 22	Engagements	14, 17	Sport	12, 15
Archaeology	16, 22	Features	14, 17	TV & Radio	10, 11
Arts	17	Law Report	17	Theatres, etc.	12, 15
Bar results	17	Letters	15, 20	25 Years Ago	16
Business	18-24	Obituary	16	Universities	16
Church	46	Premature Deaths	15	Western	2
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HOME NEWS

Cricket authorities change their defence to claim they are employers' organizations

By John Hennessy
Sports Editor

The cricketers' action in the High Court took an unexpected turn yesterday, when the defence sought, and were granted, leave to amend their defence in one respect.

The International Cricket Conference (ICC) and the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB), who have banned Mr Kerry Packer's players, are now claiming that they are employers' associations within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act, 1974, and, as such, even if they are found to be in restraint of trade in the actions brought against them by Mr Packer and three of his contracted cricketers, they are entitled to immunity under the Act.

Mr Robert Alexander, QC, for the plaintiffs, whose use of the term "lock-out" in his opening address may have inspired the amendment, thought that it could be held that the defendants are employers' associations "it will come as much as a surprise to them as to us".

He said that the amendment had been put forward at an odd stage. He was at a loss to understand why, if the ICC and the TCCB considered themselves to be employers' associations, they had not made the claim in the first place. He hoped their employment returns "would be faithfully supplied".

He thought the claim was grave, since it asked for absolute despotism over cricketers, and was wholly misconceived in law. He argued that the Act was designed to confer on employers' associations immunity corresponding to that enjoyed by trade unions, and only on those bodies who enjoyed collective bargaining. Neither defendant was involved in collective bargaining.

Much of the day was given over to evidence given by Asif Iqbal, captain of Kent and a member of the Packer group. He said that, although his retirement as a Test cricketer had been made public only during the last few days, he had announced it to the manager of the Pakistan team and to other members of the team last (English) winter. It was before he had received an offer from Mr Packer's company.

The ban had come as a shock to him because the series did not conflict with his commitments to Kent. He said that his remuneration from Kent this year had been £4,600, and he had also received £1,000 from an equipment company. Under cross-examination, he added that he received \$800 (about £300) a month from the National Bank of Pakistan but that the payments had stopped in August.

Mr Lynton Taylor, a business associate of Mr Packer, had been at the meeting at Lord's on June 23, when a compromise had been discussed. He had been "deflated considerably" when it had foundered, ostensibly over the question of television rights. He thought the meeting was only a public relations exercise, because the ICC were not seriously seeking a compromise. The evidence was interrupted to await the arrival of documents from Australia.

Mr Alexander was still discussing the defence amendment when the hearing was adjourned until today.

Mr John Davies promises his support for guillotine motion on Bill Tories in a fix over European elections

By Roger Berthoud

The Conservatives, who pride themselves on their European credentials, may find themselves in a position in which they, rather than Labour opponents of the EEC, appear to have wrecked the chances of direct elections to the European Parliament taking place on schedule next May or June.

Mr John Davies, the opposition spokesman on foreign affairs, said in an interview that he would do his best to help avert that danger. But he admitted that for the European Assembly Elections Bill to get through, the Conservatives might have to support the Government's expected "guillotine" motion. That would, it seems, be unprecedented, and he was not sure whether it could be arranged. "Great importance obviously resides in what the leader thinks," he said.

The matter has been complicated by the Government's insistence on taking the Bill in two stages: first, a decision on the voting system; second, a decision on the Bill itself, probably with a guillotine motion.

The Bill, announced in June, provides for a regional list system based on proportional representation, or for the use of the existing "first-past-the-post" system. As a result, attitudes to the basic question of direct elections have become intertwined with attitudes to proportional representation.

Mr Davies thinks that many Conservative MPs share his desire for the Bill to get through regardless of the electoral system; that a tiny minority do not want it at any price; and that a "substantial slug" want it, but not with a regional list system.

He expects that, to propitiate the Liberals, the Government will put forward the regional list system as the first proposition. But he doubts whether there would be sufficient support to get that through. That would leave the first-past-the-post system, against which the Liberals might presumably vote. But he believes it would find enough supporters to defeat a concerted effort by the "antibodies" to upset the Bill. Then (probably after Christmas) would come the matter of getting the Bill as a whole through the House, with the aid, inevitably, of the May-June deadline to be met, of a timetable motion or guillotine.

Mr Davies does not believe the Conservatives should simply abstain. "There would be so much protest at a guillotine brought into effect with what



Mr Davies: "This is an exceptional thing."

might be a minority of the House voting in favour of it that it would run into great trouble. So in the end, they will probably need to think of us in one way or another according to it.

"I would do all I humanly could once we had got over the first hurdle to get us to support a guillotine to get the Bill. But I cannot say I know with any confidence I would succeed."

"People like me will be arguing strongly in favour of saying 'This is an exceptional thing'. We are the party that supported the European idea through and through. Don't let us, for what are after all formal reasons, now reject this possibility."

Otherwise, he agreed, the Conservatives might be seen to have wrecked the Bill. "I think there's a risk that might be the interpretation."

In the last analysis he believes that, "with a lot of persuasion, the party might be prepared to accept the guillotine if it had got a first-past-the-post system" (which is known to favour the Conservatives).

The Boundaries Commission would just have time, if it went well, to produce constituencies, though without hearing local objections.

He does not believe the electoral system is an issue of great importance. The EEC's member states are scheduled to move to a common system in the second round of elections. That is bound to have a proportional element, he points out, possibly on the lines of the West German system. So the first round will not create a precedent.

Better and bigger, page 14

EEC's beef 'mountain' no help to pie-makers

By Hugh Clayton

Sausage and pie makers said yesterday that they would need to buy 100,000 tonnes of cheap beef outside the EEC next year although the Community had a "mountain" of more than 300,000 tonnes.

They said that high prices for meat were driving shoppers towards substitutes such as spaghetti and soya protein. They needed beef from Australia and New Zealand to preserve the meat-eating habit in Britain. The EEC "mountain" was too expensive and contained too much fat.

The Bacon and Meat Manufacturers' Association said yesterday: "Although a shortage of manufacturing beef does exist in the EEC, only limited and controlled access to manufacturing beef from outside is allowed. Community authorities used the 'mountain' as a pretext for keeping those limits."

Mr Raymond Moubiot, managing director of the Henry Telfer meat company, said at a meeting of the association: "The mountain is butchers' beef of the high quality which the Common Market produces better than anywhere in the world. What it does not do is produce the lean range cattle that the manufacturer needs. What we really want is the by-product of the dairy industry of the lean range pampas lands."

Mr John Lockhart, director of the association, said the Milk Marketing Board had told the meat industry that it could not supply suitable meat from the British dairy herds. He thought there was little chance that the Community would be able to buy suitable beef next year from African countries linked to its trade by the Lomé Convention.

Mr H. M. Newton-Clarke, chairman of the association, said the British pie industry was being "clothed to death" by unfair trading terms enjoyed by Dutch and Danish suppliers of processed pie in Britain. The supply of British pies was falling. "One can only see that meat prices generally will move up," he said. "Investment in our industry has all but ceased. In terms of development and replacement of the assembly line, British-style market, page 7"

Gatwick back to normal after strike

By Our Labour Staff

Gatwick airport, closed since Wednesday evening, returned to normal working yesterday when 1,000 staff who had taken industrial action in support of engineering staff involved in a grading dispute resumed normal duties.

The action by members of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, Transport and General Workers, Union and Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunications and Plumbing Union, was also unofficial. Flights from Gatwick and other airports are still subject to some delays because of prolonged action by air traffic control assistants.

Top non-smokers

Mr Sid Little and Mr Eddie Large, the television comedians, were named Britain's top non-smokers of 1977 yesterday by the National Society of Non-Smokers.

Front shows weakness of order Act

From Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent
Manchester

A game of hide-and-seek is being played in Manchester between the police, left wingers and the National Front. The National Front's refusal to say what they are up to tomorrow has exposed the weaknesses of the Public Order Act of 1936. For the ban on the Front's march in Tameside means the police do not know where they will appear or for what purpose. Or if the police do know they are not saying.

It is known that Mr Martin Webster, the Front's national activities organizer, intends to walk along part of the route taken in Tameside. On the town hall steps he plans to read a statement, the text of which is to be released. The Front also say they will give details of a rendezvous in the centre of Manchester for reporters tomorrow so that they can be transported to another Front "activity". What and where the other activity will be, the Front's officials are not saying. It could be a march or meeting.

But they reckon that about six coaches with supporters are likely to travel from London, and other branches will also make transport arrangements.

Mr James Nichol, national secretary of the Socialist Workers' Party, said yesterday he expected between 3,000 and 5,000 supporters at Stockport on Saturday. They were certain the Front was going to march there. "If they attempt to march somewhere else in the Manchester area we will do our best to make sure people demonstrate against it," he said.

Mr Nichol added that by marching by himself Mr Webster was seeking to trap socialists, trade unionists and other Front opponents into a confrontation with the police. "We have no intention of falling into that trap," he said.

Racialist debate, page 6
Leading article, page 15

Head of wives' refuge still defiant

By Annabel Ferriman

Mrs Erin Pizey, founder and organizer of the Chiswick refuge for battered wives, was given a conditional discharge at Acton Magistrates' Court, London, yesterday for allowing the centre to become overcrowded.

After the hearing she said she would continue to break the law because she would never turn anyone away.

The total allowed in the refuge by Hounslow Borough Council is 36 but there are 62 women in the Chiswick High Road refuge. The council said yesterday that if Mrs Pizey continued to ignore the order against her it would take her back to court.

On hearing her sentence, Mrs Pizey told the court that she could not abide by it. She said it was a travesty of justice. Mrs Pizey said afterwards: "We shall be back here in a few weeks. The decision makes an ass of the law and a fool of this court."

"Our argument is not with Hounslow council but with the Government. I will go on breaking the law until there is sufficient provision in this country for women and children who are being beaten."

"I am prepared to go to prison to tell the country that there are mothers and children on the run from their husbands and fathers. If they put me inside, there are other mothers who will take over and run the refuge."

Hounslow council first issued a direction to reduce numbers to Mrs Pizey in December, 1975. A month later numbers had risen rather than fallen, so Mrs Pizey was prosecuted in April, 1976, under section 19 of the Housing Act, 1961, which lays down standards for multi-occupied dwellings.

She was found not guilty, so Hounslow appealed against the decision. In May, 1977, the House of Lords found in favour of the council and sent the case back to act magistrates, with a direction that Mrs Pizey be found guilty.



Mrs Erin Pizey with some of her supporters after leaving court yesterday.

some disaster on those premises without taking some action to reduce the numbers." Reports from the council's environmental health officers had shown risks of accident and disease, and some difficulties in the case of fire. Sanitary and cooking facilities were not good, he said.

18 protesters carried from court hearing

From Our Correspondent
Llandudno

Mr Samuel Silkin, QC, the Attorney General, was criticized at Aberystwyth Magistrates' Court, Dyfed, yesterday when two leaders of the Welsh Language Society were charged with conspiracy.

Mr Michael Jones, a solicitor appearing for the defence of one of the men, described it as a political prosecution. The entire case was conducted in Welsh and reporting restrictions were lifted.

During the stage of the committal proceedings the magistrates retired while 18 society members, some of whom had tried to make speeches from the public benches, were carried out of the courtroom. The magistrates said down the entrance to the building until the proceedings were over.

Before the court were Wynford Jones, aged 26, a librarian, of Glynafon, Carmarthen, and Rhodri Williams, aged 20, a research student, of The Parade, Newchurch, Cardiff, chairman of the society's broadcasting group.

After a hearing lasting an hour and a quarter the magistrates sent for trial on bail of £50 each at Carmarthen Crown Court charged with conspiring to damage television transmitters between January 1 and March 31 this year and, in particular, the one at Blaenplwyf, near Aberystwyth.

Mr Jones said it might seem strange for the magistrates to hear from a lawyer that he maintained it was a political trial. The accused, if they had taken part at all in the alleged act, had done so in a political way. That was also true of the prosecution case, as would be made clear in the Crown Court.

Pointing out that the charge accused them of conspiring with others, Mr Jones said the police knew at least one of the others were the senate of the society, all 30 of them. However, Mr Silkin would hesitate before bringing 30 intelligent young people before magistrates and a High Court judge with the prospect of a prison sentence.

Instead the two had been unfairly selected.

Mr Silkin had discretion, and he had not dared to prosecute the Postal Workers' Union over the "blacking" of South African and Grunwick mail because he feared the reaction of the trade unions. Had Mr Tom Jackson, the postal workers' leader, been taken to court there would have been cries of victimization from Mr Len Murray, secretary of the TUC, downwards. Mr Jones cited other situations, including that of the Clay Cross council rebels, where an attorney general had not taken proceedings because they would not be politic.

Mr Jones said in any case an expert had found that a bolt-cutter owned by Mr Jones could not possibly have been used to sever a chain-link at the transmitter. A figure of £25,000 had originally been mentioned as the cost of the damage at Blaenplwyf, but he had evidence that the actual amount was £9,000.

Mr Jones, who conducted his own defence, described the case as "treachery and fraud." He urged the magistrates if they wanted to secure the future of the Welsh language, to walk out of the court.

After the case the two defendants were cheered by their supporters, who then left the building after singing the Welsh National Anthem. Mr Williams shouted: "Continue to conspire to save the language."

Mr Davydd Elis Thomas, Plead Cyaru MP for Merioneth, called for an end to conspiracy charges being brought against trade unionists and civil rights campaigners.

Lecturer's suicide

A verdict that Dr Richard Emery, aged 37, of Grosvenor Road, Muswell Hill, London, a lecturer at the Northern Polytechnic, who disappeared in January and whose body was found by his brother-in-law in the loft at his home eight months later, killed himself was recorded at Haringey coroner's court yesterday.

Denial that hospital forgot to order theatre instruments

From Ronald Kershaw
Barnsley

Allegations by a surgeon that orders for operating theatre instruments had been forgotten at Barnsley District General Hospital were completely untrue, Barnsley Area Health Authority said last night. The hearing, although not perfect, was acceptable.

The statement came after complaints by surgeons at Barnsley's new £12m hospital that shortage of instruments prevented them from operating and that operating theatres were so cold that once a baby undergoing an eye operation had to be wrapped in metal foil to prevent it from dying of hypothermia.

The authority said last night that further work would continue to eliminate heating faults. On instrument shortages it said: "There are difficulties in providing the required instruments at the present time but the matter must be kept in perspective."

In addition to many thou-

sands of instruments in the region's hospitals about 32,500 had been ordered at a cost of £96,000, of which only 600 items were still required. Sterile packs of instruments were made up but it took time to know which instruments to make up for different surgeons.

"It has been evident that there is a need for additional instruments to be put into the system," the statement said. The authority said funds had been reserved to fill instrument shortages. The authority was anxious to reassure the public that no patients were at risk.

Surgeons complained that instruments have had to be borrowed from other hospitals, that shortages of instruments had prevented operations, and that the running of the operating theatres was deficient.

Stolen stamps found

Scotland Yard's flying squad recovered jubilee postage stamps worth £230,000 stolen from Heathrow airport in June yesterday.

Opera cancelled because of union trouble

Union difficulties have led to the cancellation of Toulouse-Lautrec's latest British opera by David Blake at the London Coliseum after only three performances.

The last performance will be tonight, two further performances have been cancelled because of difficulties with the Musicians' Union.

The English National Opera Company last night expressed its regret: "It is an exciting work and had good reviews. But Toulouse-Lautrec hopes to restore to future seasons."

Air control strike move

Mr Dell, Secretary of State for Trade, met the National Joint Council for Civil Air Transport yesterday in an attempt to resolve the dispute between the air traffic control assistants and the Civil Aviation Authority.



Lady Birk handing over a warrant for a gift of seven deer from the royal herd in Richmond Park to Rear-Admiral Desmond Piers, Agent General of Nova Scotia. The deer will go to a new wildlife park in Canada.

£20m plan to turn Hampden Park into sportsdrome

A £20m project to convert Hampden Park, Glasgow, one of the largest football stadiums in the world, into an all-round sports centre, is to be recommended to the Government.

Mr Laurence Liddell, chairman of the National Stadium Committee, said at a press conference in Glasgow last night that Hampden Park should become a sports centre equivalent to Meadowbank in Edinburgh, which was built to accommodate the Commonwealth Games and then returned to the community.

The National Stadium Committee was set up four years ago from representatives of the Scottish Football Association, the Scottish Football League, Queens Park Football Club and local authorities to look into the future of the Hampden Park ground. It is the home of the Queens Park club, the only senior amateur club in Scotland.

But many people are convinced that the huge ground is not being used to its full potential. The projected scheme would keep Hampden Park as an international football stadium, but facilities would be provided for a wide range of other sports.

The committee was told that, in their present state, the ground's stands had a life span of no more than 20 years. They would require extensive reconstruction and progressively higher maintenance costs before then. The £20m cost of converting the ground into a sportsdrome would be borne by central government with equal help from local authorities.

Consultant fails to win case at industrial tribunal

From Our Correspondent
Shrewsbury

Dr Henry Wright, a consultant anaesthetist, who resigned his post at Leominster Hospital, Crewe, after being refused a year's unpaid study leave, took his case before an industrial tribunal at Shrewsbury yesterday.

He told the tribunal that Mersey Regional Health Authority's refusal when other similar applications had been granted was "victimization" and that that had forced his resignation, which amounted to constructive dismissal. He now works in Holland.

In evidence, he said he had worked at Crewe from 1966 until last year when he had applied to Dr John Wharton, who was then regional medical officer, to be allowed a year in Holland. There one qualified anaesthetist supervised several nurses in contrast to the British system of "one doctor for one patient" at operations. A system such as the Dutch had could cut waiting lists, he said.

Poverty and deprivation still haunt Easterhouse

From Ronald Faux
Glasgow

A new generation of young people, with new disabilities, has settled in Easterhouse, a grey and dejected-looking suburb in the east end of Glasgow. Ten years ago, violent gang warfare was the difficulty and in a much publicized amnesty, the gang leaders laid down a grisly selection of arms and the forces built two stout Nissen huts to house the Easterhouse project.

Yesterday the huts were still noisily in business, providing a place for entertainment and a safety valve for some 1,500 young people who have had the misfortune to be born in Easterhouse or are obliged to live there.

Easterhouse has not changed so much although the gang problem is less. But there is another generation of young people who face unemployment, and the associated problems of vandalism. The centre is still badly needed here, a community worker said.

Illiteracy must be wiped out, Dr Coggan says

The world contained a thousand million illiterates and three quarters of them were women, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Coggan, stated last night.

Preaching at a service in Westminster Abbey to mark the tenth anniversary of the launching of the Feed the Minds Campaign, Dr Coggan referred to "this worldwide curse of illiteracy."

"These are the poor, the deprived, the hungry, the landless, the victims of political domination, the oppressed," he said.

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Police hunt for gunman cut in wages snatch

Police are searching for a gunman with blond hair, after an armed raid yesterday on the wages office at Wiggins Teape Mill, Dartford, Kent.

Three men wearing crash helmets, armed with revolvers and a shotgun, grabbed £20,000 in wages which had just been delivered by security men.

One of the raiders cut himself on broken glass as he searched the cash boxes and checked the list of names to see if he could find out for blood-stained bank notes.

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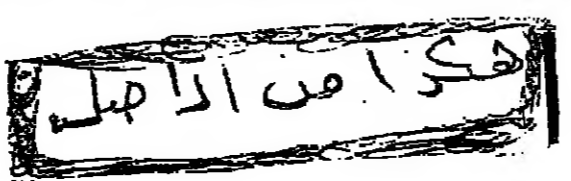
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EEC's beef 'mountain' no help to pie-makers to help middle-income groups

by Hugh Clayton
Sausage and pie makers yesterday that they could buy 100,000 tonnes of beef outside the EEC to help them cope with the "beef mountain" of surplus meat. The EEC's scheme allowing people to bring cases to court on a contingency fee basis, Mr. Denby said, was a "contingency fee" basis, Mr. Denby said, was a "contingency fee" basis, Mr. Denby said, was a "contingency fee" basis.

GLC Tories urge ILEA abolition

by H. M. Newman
The British Conservative Party yesterday urged the abolition of the Greater London Council (GLC) and the London Education Authority (LEA). The party's manifesto for the forthcoming local government elections in London, published yesterday, called for the abolition of the GLC and the LEA, and the replacement of the GLC by a new body, the London Council, which would be responsible for the administration of the city of London.

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Police investigate alleged forgery of steel papers

by David Walker
The Times Higher Education Supplement yesterday reported that the British Steel Corporation is investigating allegations that a former employee had forged documents relating to the company's steel production. The investigation is being conducted by the British Steel Corporation's internal security department, and the results are expected to be published in the near future.

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Polytechnic lecturers want 17% rise in salaries

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Law Society would back scheme for 'contingency fee' litigation to help middle-income groups

from Marcel Berlins
Legal Correspondent
The Law Society would support a scheme allowing people to bring cases to court on a contingency fee basis, Mr. Denby said, was a "contingency fee" basis, Mr. Denby said, was a "contingency fee" basis, Mr. Denby said, was a "contingency fee" basis.

Test case over gifted children

by Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent
The first test of the Government's new policy on the education of gifted children is being conducted in the county of Surrey. The policy, which was announced last year, allows parents to request that their children be placed in a special school or class, provided that the school can provide the necessary facilities. The test case is being conducted by the Surrey County Council, and the results are expected to be published in the near future.

Local control of higher education urged

by Judith Judd of The Times
Higher Education Supplement
Sweeping proposals to give local authorities a greater role in the control of higher education are being put forward by the National Union of Students today. The proposals, which are being put forward by the National Union of Students, call for a new body, the Higher Education Council, to be established, which would be responsible for the control of higher education in the United Kingdom.

Fifty policemen assaulted in 'peaceful' county

by David Walker
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Inside the BBC

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More Home News, page 16

Judge says long trial delays are a scandal

A High Court judge protested on Wednesday at the "disgrace" of long delays in hearing murder cases at the Central Criminal Court. Mr. Justice Michael Davies said it was "almost a public scandal" that no fewer than 35 murder or attempted murder trials were outstanding there. "The time has come, in my view, when a much stricter approach to applications for postponement ought to be made," he declared.

Homeland 1

by David Walker
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What they are:

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Fact-box comparisons

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You can do something to help

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THE DOUBLE STANDARDS OF MR CARTER AND THE EEC



President Carter, United States Yasser Arafat, PLO leader Fakhri al-Sayid, Transkei

PRESIDENT CARTER declared in Washington (12th May 1977) that it was of "crucial importance" to a settlement in the Middle East that the Palestinians have a homeland. The EEC, after two months of consultation among the nine member nations of the European Economic Community, issued a statement which read: "A solution to the conflict in the Middle East will be possible only if the legitimate right of the Palestinian people to give effective expression to its national identity is translated into fact."

Homeland 1

The proposed homeland for up to three million people is on the West Bank of the Jordan (Judea-Samaria) on lands conquered by Israel in the 1967 war plus the Gaza strip. Apparently it is not the view of the homeland advocates that all Palestinians should live within its borders. It is rather to be the focus of their national identity.

SO, the United States, and the nine Western European nations, and 21 Arab countries now all hold that a Palestinian homeland is necessary for peace in this part of the globe irrespective of its diminutive size or its inability to accommodate all its people.

Homeland 2

By a coincidence there are just on three million Xhosa people whose homeland is Transkei in Southern Africa. Their country is 6 times the size of the West Bank zone proposed as the homeland for the Palestinians.

Some 1,644,600 Xhosas live in Transkei which is a one-man-one-vote republic which gained its independence from South Africa in October last year. Most of the rest of the Xhosas earn their living in the urban areas of South Africa but all have the right to vote in the homeland, the focus of their national identity.

BUT the United States, and the Nine of Western Europe, and the Arab countries all reject homelands for the Black peoples of South Africa as unjust. THE SIN of the Xhosas is that they obtained their independence through three general elections for a parliament modelled on Westminster and not through the barrel of the gun. Yet they have been refused a seat at the United Nations.

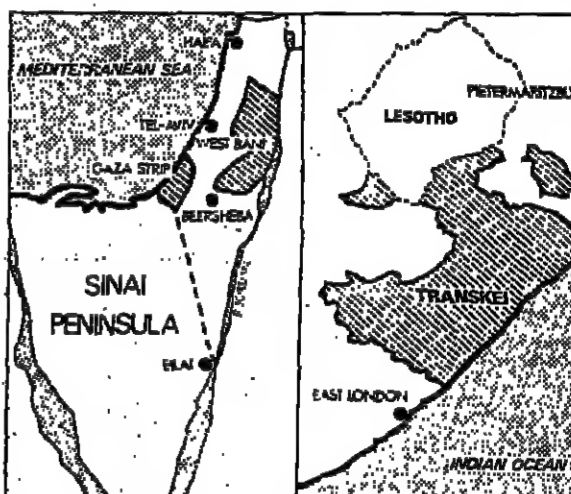
Question:

How can these double standards be justified by the Nine of Western Europe, and the Arab nations, and above all by a US President who declares that he is campaigning for human rights?

Answer, please, Mr Carter and Mr Callaghan, Monsieur Giscard d'Estaing and the rest.

You can do something to help

To help the Xhosa people take their rightful place in the councils of the United Nations tear or cut out this page and mail it Right Now to: the White House, Washington or No. 10 Downing Street, London or the Elysée Palace, Paris. Make democracy work for peace.



Proposed homeland for the Palestinians on the West Bank of the Jordan (Judea-Samaria) plus the Gaza strip with access between them guaranteed probably via the Beersheba road. Homeland of the Xhosa, a Bantu people of Transkei which gained its independence from South Africa last year. The area has been treated as an African reserve since the first partition of the territory were annexed to the British Cape Colony in 1877.

What they are:

Fact-box comparisons

- 1 The Transkei homeland is no artificial creation of the South African government. The Xhosa people were well established in the region by 1800. Its boundaries have been clearly defined since British colonial days.
- 2 Covering an area equal to Belgium and Luxembourg, Transkei is larger than 22 member countries of the United Nations, has a coastline of 160 miles and is six times the size of the proposed Arab homeland on the overcrowded West Bank of the Jordan.
- 3 Transkei's annual budget runs in excess of £100 million almost double that of Judea-Samaria.
- 4 Other comparisons from latest available figures:

	Transkei	Judea-Samaria
Hospitals	31	16
Doctors	136	92
Nurses	4,500	360
Schools	1,820	956
Teachers	8,452	6,831
Pupils, primary	426,802	139,700
Secondary	26,800	18,200

- 5 Transkei's Gross National Product was more than £275 million as long ago as 1973-4 compared with Judea-Samaria at £30 million in 1971 (both latest official figures available.)

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The conference got going rather well yesterday before the first session failed in another private session.

The fact that the strike-delayed M. Mitterrand, would-be President of France, could not be present to address only behind closed doors and away from the publicity which emboldened him to come in the first place, was pure fate.

Before the arrival there was up-roar among the French press. "Unheard of, simply unheard of," a Parisienne colleague gasped.

"He'll be furious, furious," said all the Parisians, who were sitting in there, and they can't get him in at Gwatkin; good job I'm not on a right-wing paper."

Labour's press director, Mr. Kelsey, was not deceived. He suggested that closed sessions might be a thing of the past by 1979, or perhaps next year if constitutional reform is not a high priority. The problem is allowing the party's agents to speak on organization matters at any

they have all enjoyed until the dampness of Old Taverny upon the apple cart. The new idea is automatically, to put the sitting members on the short list along with other challengers, not let them get their safe seats as personal property.

For the first time the conference has now accepted this principle—but, that constitution again—there is a big snag. The issue has been brought forward again at the next conference (which, conveniently, might come after the next election).

"It is sounds fair enough, but for the fact that reformers do not wish to extend the 'reselection process' beyond the members of the constituency general management committee, the 'reselection process' fringe meeting group opposing up the process at least to the attending paid-up constituency members (hardly an unmanageable number, if the 'reselection membership blight' she was raucously denounced for leaving

Before we get to the burning private issue of "re-selection" let it be recorded that there were some good speeches. Mr. Tan

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WEST EUROPE

British-style beef market policy will mean cheaper meat, EEC farm commissioner says

By Michael Hornsby
London, Oct 6

A radical change in the EEC's system of support for the beef market, which is responsible for the Community's notorious surplus of 400,000 tonnes, was proposed today by Mr Rino Ossola, the Commissioner for Agriculture.

In essence, it involves an extension to the EEC as a whole of the arrangements allowed hitherto only in Britain.

This move will be welcome to Mr Ossola, who has been attempting to persuade the four Party's anti-Market Committee to accept the EEC's policy. However, there will be strong resistance from the French to the Commission's proposal in the Council of Ministers. The French have already denounced them as "outrageous".

At present, beef producers' purses are maintained above a minimum level by buying up surplus meat in cold storage when market prices fall to 10 per cent of a guide price. The effect of this has been to keep market prices at a much higher level than would otherwise have been the case.

Under the new scheme, intervention buying would be triggered only when market prices fell to a point lower than

this 90 per cent threshold. Exactly where this point would be fixed would depend on the level of the guide price agreed at next spring's EEC farm price review, and Mr Gundelach warned producers to expect "precious little increase".

To bridge the gap between market prices and the 90 per cent threshold which at present triggers intervention buying, beef producers would be paid variable premiums; this is, direct cash subsidies of the deficiency payments type traditionally used in Britain.

Mr Gundelach claimed that the new system would preserve the income guarantee of producers, but at the same time make beef cheaper for the consumer and thus help to arrest what he described as a "disastrous" consumption trend in recent years.

According to figures set out in a report submitted to the Council of Ministers, beef and veal production in the EEC is increasing at an annual rate of 2.7 per cent, whereas consumption has been rising by only 1.5 per cent a year. Beef and veal accounted for 35 per cent of all meat consumption in 1960. This share has now dropped to 31 per cent because of competition from poultry and pig meat, whose prices have risen more slowly.

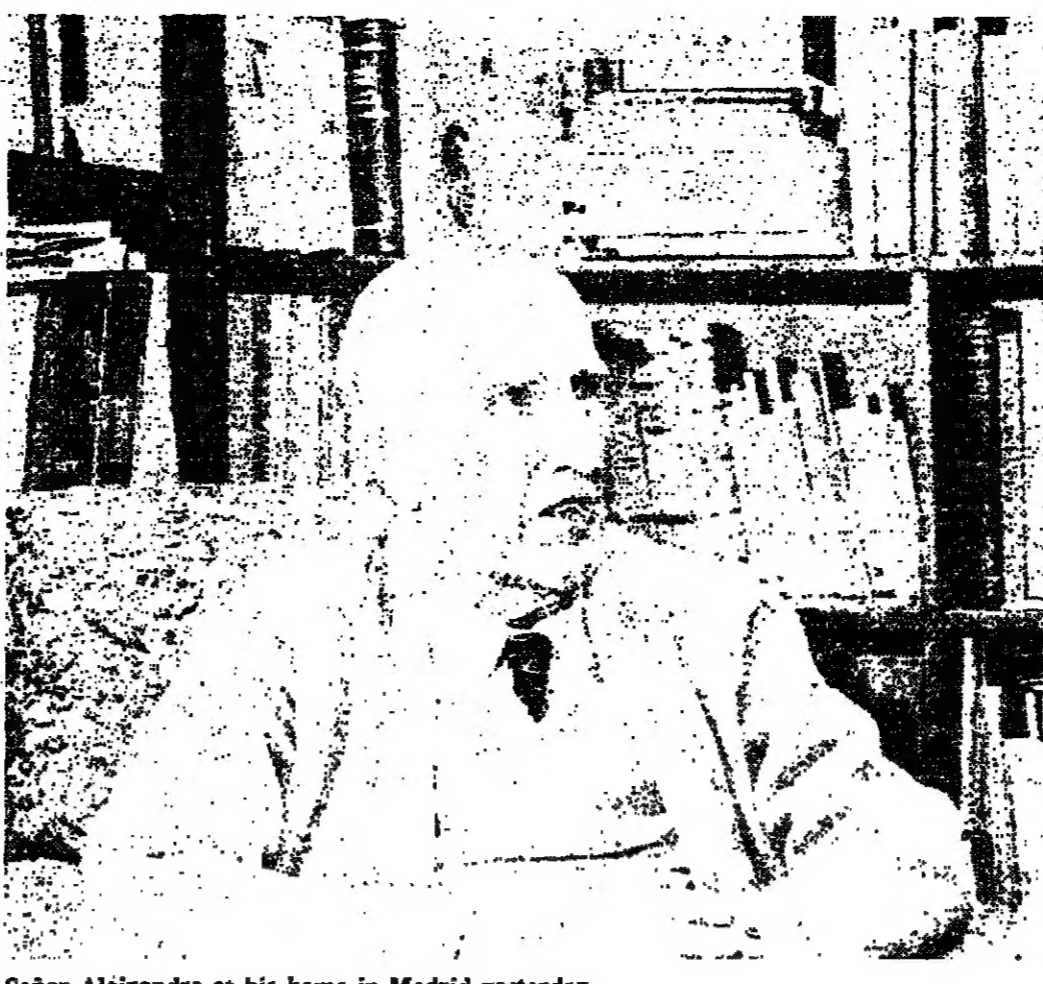
Under questioning, Mr Gundelach conceded that in the short term the new and more flexible beef regime might

entail greater expenditure than the present intervention system. But he argued that in the long run the cost to the Community of allowing consumption to decline even further would be much higher.

One of the features of the beef market in recent years, Mr Gundelach said, had been the alternation between periods of over-supply and extreme shortage, this was due to the inflexibility of the undisciplined intervention system. The proposed lower intervention level and variable premiums were designed to cope with an over-supplied market. Mr Gundelach explained, in times of shortage and high market prices, the Commission proposed the payment of special subsidies to encourage the early slaughter of cattle so as to increase the flow of beef to the consumer.

On fisheries policy, Mr Gundelach played down suggestions that any deal had been struck earlier this week in London with Mr John Silkin, Minister of Agriculture, on the sharing of fish stocks in the EEC's 200-mile zone.

However, he indicated that fishermen in Scotland and Northern England could expect significantly more generous treatment than hitherto when the Commission submits revised proposals to EEC fisheries ministers later this month in Luxembourg.



Señor Alexandre at his home in Madrid yesterday.

Spanish poet winner of Nobel Prize

Stockholm, Oct 6.—The 1977 Nobel Literature Prize was awarded today to Señor Vicente Aleixandre, the 79-year-old Spanish poet. He was said to have shown "the strength to survive" in poetry written as he endured tuberculosis, civil war and then loneliness under the Franco dictatorship.

In poems spanning half a century he had emerged as a rallying figure for "what remained of spiritual life" under the rule of the late General Franco, the panel of 18 scholars and authors of the Swedish Academy said. The Nobel Prize is worth 700,000 kronor (£80,000). The literature award, usually the last, was this year the first to be announced. The Nobel Peace Prize, decided by a Norwegian committee, is not due to be disclosed until Monday. Señor Aleixandre, born in 1898, the son of a railway engineer, wrote poetry which

"illuminates man's condition in the cosmos", today's citation said. This was despite renal tuberculosis which made him bed-ridden or a captive at his desk as a young man and which also kept him in Spain when friends went into exile. In Madrid, the poet's eyes filled with tears when journalists broke in on his quiet, introspective world after news of the award reached the Spanish capital today. "I am very surprised", he said. Señor Aleixandre belonged to the so-called "1927 generation" of Spanish writers.

Computerized landscapes aid training of pilots

From Arthur Reed
Air Correspondent
Frankfurt, Oct 6

Many of the world's leading airlines are visiting the Luftwaffe base here to inspect an important development in the training of pilots which will lead to improvements in flight safety and also reduce the nuisance from aircraft noise. Developed by the British company Rediffon Flight Simulation, the new training aid projects highly realistic landscapes outside the cockpit windows of the Luftwaffe simulators in which pilots learn

to fly without leaving the ground. While such images of daylight scenes have in the past been produced by a closed-circuit television camera roving over a scale model, they are now being "drawn" by a computer. Instructors are able to show images of daytime and nighttime conditions and clouds or mist which can obscure the landing. They can programme the computer to show a truck driving across the runway just as the trainee is about to touch down, making him go through the overshooting procedures.

Thousands at funeral of riot victim

Turin, Oct 6.—More than 20,000 people today attended the funeral of Signor Roberto Crascenzo, aged 20, a part-time student who was burnt alive in a left-wing fire bomb attack on a Turin bar last Saturday.

The attack came during disorders throughout Italy which began after a left-wing militant was killed near the headquarters of the neo-fascists in Rome. Police on motor cycles escorted Signor Crascenzo's coffin in the procession today. Observers regarded the large turnout as a demonstration of widespread opposition to political extremism.—Reuter.

Liverpool Archbishop reviews synod debate

From Peter Nichols
Liverpool, Oct 6

The voice of Africa has been the clearest and most uniform so far at the international Synod of Bishops in the Vatican, according to the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Liverpool, Mr Derek Warlock. More than half the bishops present have spoken in the debate.

The archbishop said that one African bishop after another had risen to emphasize the importance of small Christian communities as the basis on which faith will be developed and passed on to future generations. They had also spoken of the use of small group formation or training for building up these communities.

Mr Warlock made his remarks as the Vatican's episcopal synod was about to close its general debate and split into working groups. The subject under discussion is catechesis and Mr Warlock, in his survey of the debate, said that the bishops of the United States had spoken sensitively of the personal problems which can exist in a high standard of living of the loneliness of individuals, and the need to relate religious devotion to doctrinal instruction, of the challenge of young people to help to animate and instruct their parents.

The synod is expected to last until the end of the month.

education if young people are to find understanding and stability in today's society. From Latin America, there had been many statements about the difficulties to be faced, of new efforts to increase the quality and to extend the age-range of catechetical instruction. But account had to be taken of the background and problems of social justice in which those to be catechized would have to live. There had been a number of warnings that the leaders and animators of youth in Latin America did not necessarily possess Christian orthodoxy or respect for the teaching authority of the church.

The voice from Asia was more complex and seemed to reflect the transcendental values of religion. It had been emphasized that catechisms must be Christ-centred, personal, relevant and related to experience, but all with reference to the timeless nature of religious belief.

The synod had been reminded of the dedicated commitment of the Buddhist and it had been suggested that here was a lesson for the Catholics to learn with regard to the measure of the formation which should be required of the Christian faithful.

MP calls for policies to raise Europe's birthrate

By Pat Healy
Social Services Correspondent

A Conservative MP will try today to persuade Western European countries to adopt policies that encourage childbearing to avoid a future in which a small working population will have to support more and more old people. Mr Toby Jessel, MP for Twickenham, wants governments to adopt family policies that are more generous, through taxation and social security, and to make it easier for mothers to work by providing day care.

Mr Jessel expects a rough ride when he presents his proposals to the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe after a year's study by a representative committee on the implications of demographic change. But he pointed out that in at least three countries—West Germany, Luxembourg and Austria—the birthrate has fallen so drastically that generations are no longer being replaced.

"Everyone has been so anxious about the pace of

growth of population in the world as a whole, that it has hardly crossed anyone's mind that Europe could be going too far the other way."

Mr Jessel wants to create a climate and incentives in western Europe that will encourage women to have more children, but that does not mean that he wants women to remain at home looking after children. His report recognizes that trends towards women controlling their reproduction and becoming a growing proportion of the labour force are irreversible, and his recommendations reflect this.

One of the main proposals is to reduce factors operating against fertility, particularly by ensuring that women's careers are not handicapped by childbearing and by making it easier for parents to combine responsibilities with full participation in the labour market.

Mr Jessel is also concerned that European countries should avoid taking measures to ease unemployment in the short term.

Iran to import French nuclear power stations

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, Oct 6

Two new nuclear power stations and 10 or 12 Airbus planes are to be purchased from France by Iran as a result of a trip there by M Michel Rattowski, representing the French President.

The two 900 megawatt units could be just the beginning. Negotiations were ahead for four others. The order for the Airbus, which will bring heart to the depressed aircraft industry in Toulouse, will keep production busy in part for the next year or three years. The first are due to be delivered by the end of this year, and the remaining six or eight over a longer period.

M Rattowski's visit gave him a chance to discuss with Shah a series of international economic problems; prime importance was laid on continuing economic co-operation between the two countries.

President Giscard leads political popularity poll

From Ian Murray
Paris, Oct 6

There is encouraging news for President Giscard d'Estaing at last from an opinion poll. According to one published today in *Le Quotidien de Paris*, he is first choice for 42 per cent of Frenchmen for the job he holds, compared to 30 per cent who are for M François Mitterrand, the Socialist leader, and 10 per cent each for M Jacques Chirac, the Gaullist leader, and M Georges Marchais, the Communist leader.

M Chirac, in a radio interview today, attacked any idea of a coalition between the centre parties and the Socialists as suggested in connexion with the continued failure of the Union of the Left to agree on a new common programme for the elections next March. There was no possibility of creating a third force in France, he said.

In any event, how could it claim to represent all Frenchmen if it excluded the Gaullists?

Mr Jean Lecanuet, the Centrist leader, said in an interview that it was still clearly impossible for the Socialists and Communists to govern together. M Mitterrand, he said, was mistaken in his new belief that the Communists would change. M Marchais said on television that he believed the Socialist Party had swung to the right, and he added that his central committee, which is meeting now, had agreed that what now had to be done was to create conditions which would bear the right at the elections, thus making it possible for a union on a programme of change.

Floods in Genoa

Genoa, Oct 6.—Flooding caused by heavy rain paralysed this Italian seaport today. Some quarters were cut off for several hours and damage was extensive. There were several road accidents. — Agency France-Press.

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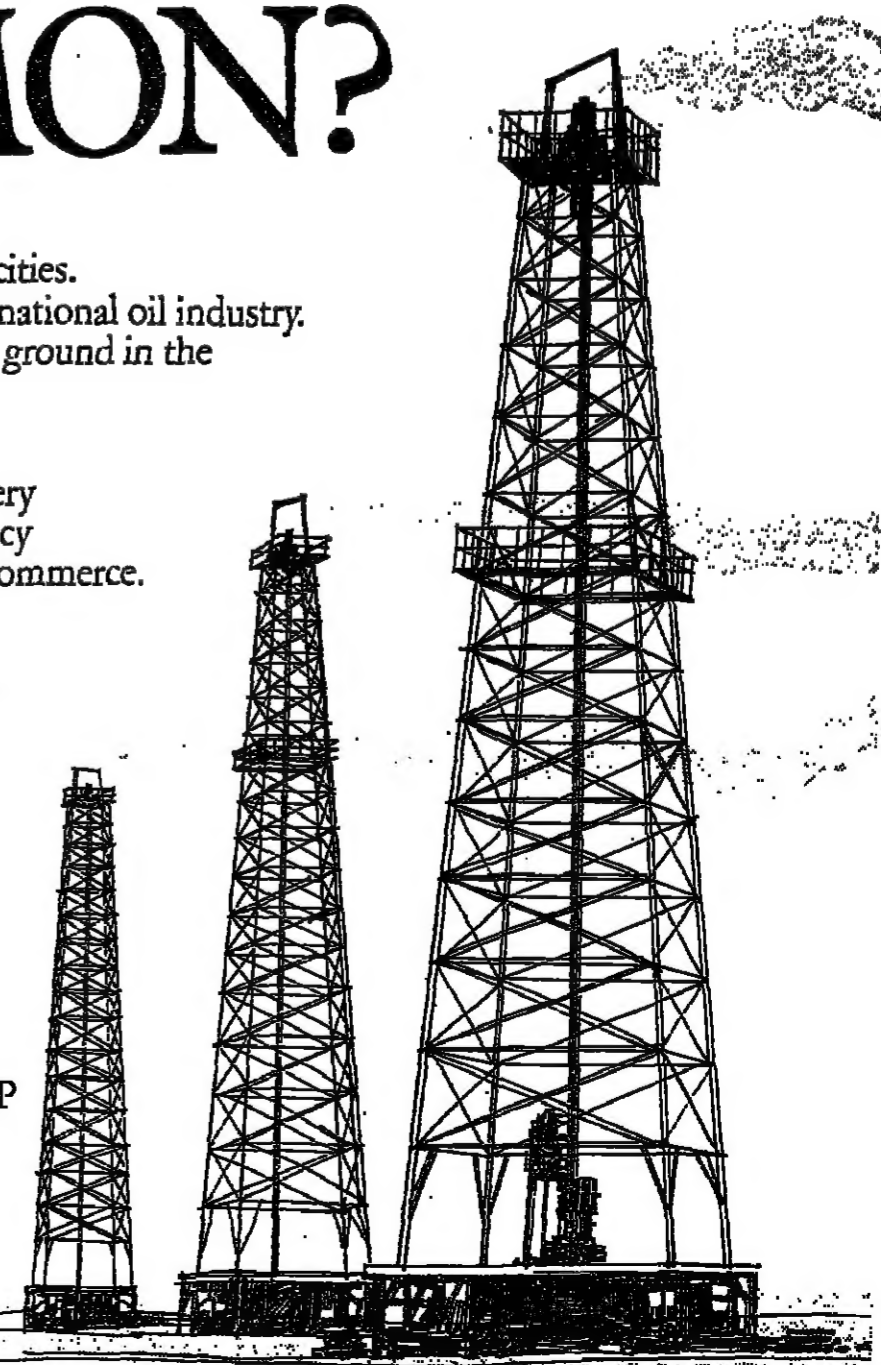
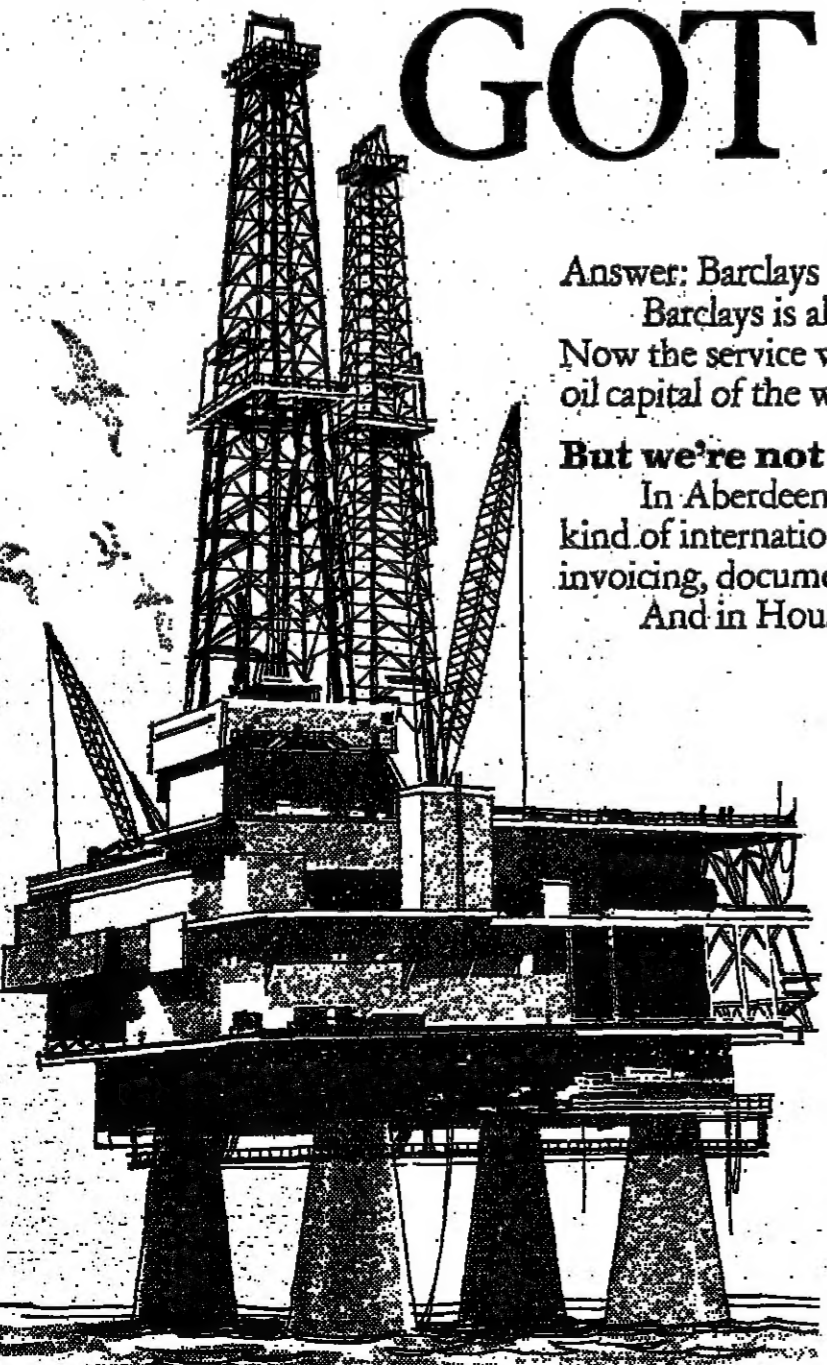
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THE ARTS

Australia provides the best film of the week

Caddie (a)
Leon Kensington/
Leon Swiss Cottage

Valentino (x)
Ricciatore Square
Heare

Slap Shot (x)
Laza 2/
BCs Shaftesbury

Paradise (x)
BC Shaftesbury
venue

Paradise (x)
BC Shaftesbury
venue

The biggest film of the week is *Valentino*, and the best one is *Caddie*. *Valentino*, although its subject is ostensibly the life of a famous actor, is in fact a study of an abandoned wife. Depression-era provincial Australia, gives you the sort of leisure and encouragement to lift that (as you realize) is so largely gone out of English-speaking films.

In the past two or three years Australian film-making has made massive strides. Donald Crombie is a new name, but he has made a film in which people have real faces and real feelings as they did long ago.

The script is based on the life of a famous actor, but the film is a study of a woman, leaving her to and for herself and two small children. She takes the only way out she can find, as a barmaid in a rough pub; and in a series of scenes the film follows her subsequent fortunes through a series of years and a series of lovers.

It is hard to explain the outstanding attraction of the film, which is something like this: a good Victorian novel. It is less accountable to technical standards than to an attitude, a sense of honesty which is communicated to all the performers. You are already, I am certain, familiar with the film, the unfamiliar and un-very setting of spit-and-sawdust pubs and suburban slums; the story of a working-class journey in the lower-class Australian Depression; a simple, unadorned, Fordian sentimentality for you. Let me urge you to overcome instinctive resistance, and go to *Caddie*. You'll find it better for it.

I would not say the same for *Valentino*. There have been



Rudolf Nureyev as Valentino in the role of the Sheikh

legendary idol of the silent screen. The one on which Ken Russell chose to base his film was *Valentino*, an intimate study of the life of the dancer, by Brad Pitt and Chaw Mank. As far as I recall it is one of the few works I threw away instantly after reading it. One of the authors claimed to have been a Valentino employee whose duties—judging from alleged verbatim reports of other people's intimate conversations—half a century before—must have been under the star's bed.

Bad books don't necessarily make bad films; and anyway Ken Russell does not stick very close to it, or indeed to any other account of the historical Valentino. He would not doubt explain that his concern is not with the Valentino of history but with the Valentino of his imagination. It is the creative artist's privilege: truth after all lies deeper than facts. Whatever you do with facts, however, there remains some responsibility to people, living or dead. To take an example, Russell has invented the character of a sly, extravagant and tippling malicious actress, a Russian, and a flamboyant performance at Valentino's side is clearly based on Pola Negri; but the film boldly identifies her as Nazimova.

Nazimova was, of course, a real person—a great, gifted and much loved actress and a

woman of personal dignity, who never went near the circus that surrounded Valentino's death. Years earlier, Valentino had played around to her Camille, and by chance had chosen both his wives from the bevy of female admirers who surrounded the apparently homosexual actress. It is this aspect of her personality that attracts Russell's worst hostility: as his "Nazimova" walks from the coffin side by side with Nazimova, the second Mrs Valentino, the film belts out The Wedding March.

With even less historical foundation Russell introduces a figure immediately recognizable as the comedian Fanny Arbuckle. Arbuckle was a boisterous and extroverted actor, whose career ended in scandal (he was acquitted on a manslaughter charge); but he was by every account a kindly, generous and amiable man. The film makes him a coarse and odious sadist. To defame the dead like this is surely as odious as to slander the living—though a good deal safer.

Russell's work is increasingly, even obsessively, concerned with humiliation and degradation. Again and again, scenes of imagined incidents from Valentino's life are used for psychological studies of humiliation: the Arbuckle encounter in which Valentino's dancing partner (presumably Bonnie Bliss,

though there is no apparent historical basis for the incident) appears too drunk to stand; a night in prison during which the star is made to roll in other people's vomit and to wet his own pants (a gross distortion); a boxing bout in which, even though he finally wins, Valentino is brutally pummeled, before a hostile, howling mob.

The compulsion to degrade goes beyond the human figures. Being (as you might think) hand that feeds him, Russell even sets out to diminish the cinema in which the star played. Valentino's ultimate secret was that he was actually a very good screen actor: restaging a scene from *The Sheik*, Russell makes him a Mount Pyreth rapist. Silent films boasted superb photographic quality, and important features were shown in subtle coloured tints. Russell, when he has to represent 1920s film, has to use a crude, grainy, jumpy, and unimpressive technique.

The pity about all this ill nature is that Russell wastes upon it a lot of flair and energy and flamboyance. He knows how to make a scene, how to use space and crowds and sets and costumes. He borrows from the best models: in form the film is a Frank O'Farrell *Citizen Kane*, from the reporters at the lying-in-state to the final shot of the dying Valentino

grasping for an orange that rolls out of his grasp. (In *Kane* the equivalent symbol of childhood nostalgia was a crystal snowstorm ball.)

Such borrowing risks comparisons. Wallace's collage of flashbacks interlocked like a beautiful jigsaw puzzle to make up a complete picture of a human being. In *Valentino* a muddle of memories circulates round and round without bringing us very close to an understanding of the central figure or the problems of a cheerful, simple fellow with no special sexual charge, who finds himself the most potent and (by men) most feared sex symbol of his era.

That Valentino emerges as some kind of person in the end, without being submerged in the general welter of degradation, is due to Rudolf Nureyev. It does not matter that he has some difficulties with lines, and gives up altogether trying to replace his Russian accent with an Italian one. He has a screen presence which cannot be diminished. Whatever his director's view, it is clear that he respects, admires and believes in the character he is playing, and lends it all his dignity, charm and (especially appropriate to Valentino) physical grace. This great artistic single-handed elevates *Valentino*; but he deserved better for his acting debut than this mean film.

George Roy Hill's *Slap Shot*, scripted by Nancy Dowd, doesn't quite make it as a parable about the degradation (again) of popular entertainment. It is the story of an ice hockey team, coached by a veteran player within sight of retirement (Paul Newman), owned by a depressed industrial township, and slipping fast in the league.

When the team decides to change tactics and play dirtier than dirty, the bored public suddenly thrills to the murder and mayhem and riot and police activity that attends their games. There's a message somewhere here, about might make it, but it really counts for nothing, since the pay-off is self-evident (if amusingly staged) comic effect. The film is wearisomely overlong, but en route offers a gritty realistic picture of the lives of professional ice-hockey players: tedious bus journeys, garish hotels, hit-and-run sex, inferior stadiums and endlessly the obscene, senseless language of the locker room.

That *Slap Shot* is, as the current wave of occult horrors go, remarkably watchable is due to the director Darío Argento's very lively film sense. There is all the obligatory nastiness of persons smothered and hanged and severed by falling slices of glass, but the most effective moments of suspense come from camera tracks down empty corridors where only a curtain flutters slightly, a knife blade sliding through the crack of a door to lift a candle, the wheezing score of an unseen presence behind a partition. The witches' coven is led by Alida Valli and Joan Bennett.

David Robinson

Television

The box and sexual stereotypes

Superman and the Bride
Thames

Michael Church

Every so often the domesticated screen has a moment of unscheduled, wordless triumph. One such moment came at the end of last Friday's edition of *The Book Programme*, in which Richard Adams, the author of *Watership Down*, was visited at his luxurious retreat on the Isle of Man.

The interview progressed smoothly and entirely satisfactorily, with Robinson genuflecting to Adams expatiating on life, love and art, right up until the final image which the camera caught and held—and held. There was the writer, seated in glory at his table, his papers in front of him, when he walked a mute and nameless female who humbly handed him his tea and then stood back in indulgent veneration. Rightly or wrongly, just or unjust, a heavy point was made.

This may seem a long way round to get at *Superman and the Bride* but really, in fact, it isn't. Last night's "documentary" ("polemic") would be better presented a black-and-white view of television as a machine for reinforcing traditional sexual stereotypes, and it gave no impression that the

battle to dissolve these was in some spheres quietly being won. In other spheres, of course, the battle is noisily being lost, and this constitutes justification enough, I think, for *Superman's* shrill, paranoid tone. Takes as obvious examples, Van der Valk, Hackert, Kojak, Starsky and Hutch, the Sweeney, the XYY gentleman: lots of OK violence, total "masculinity". Take the leading ladies in 1970, *The New Avengers*; quintessential male fantasies. Made by men, for men (and for acolyte-women)? Surely yes.

Superman presented a delightful collage of clips from feature films showing Anthony Quinn, David Hemmings and John Huston being "men" and Sarah Miles, Millicent Martin and Sylvia Sims being "women"; turning to images from the real world it wove a seamless web of ultra-masculine political decision-making and equally seamless web of public feminine tenderness.

It looked outside itself to see how children's books and women's magazines helped in the myth-making, and it gazed up to Sweden and, inevitably, across to China to show that things were not necessarily so. It turned back inwards and counted male and female heads among experts and presenters, to show the gross disparity between the sexes, and in a wicked little postscript it counted the respective female (few) and male (many) heads involved in its own making.

It is tempting, in matters of social change, to argue both the inevitability and the desirability of gradualism. It is tempting to point out meanly that simple correlations between women's socio-economic status and their television image are regularly upset by specific programmes, and that it is only in the ads that these correlations really hold good. What about all those powerful women in *Crossroads* and *Coronation Street*?

However, as one of the vox pop interviewees said, you've got to overstate a case to make it effective, and this was the jolliest, zippiest overstatement of a case that badly needs making—energetically, and again and again.

Superman's provenance is, as you may have suspected, educational. It leaped fully armed from a section of *Viewpoint*, a media-study series for secondary schools which was first broadcast in 1974, and then, after recommitment, taken off the air because of its intentionally provocative Marxist base. (It is coming back, revamped, shortly.)

The adult incarnation seems far more appropriate, and it could well prompt further pieces of television self-scrutiny. It was itself replete with delicious ironies, notably its unashamed use of advertising techniques as a way of attacking advertising techniques, and also its mere presence on our screens—which is living proof that the "system" can be penetrated. (Or—is it?)

The Norman Conquests
Thames

Stanley Reynolds

Staying in to watch an Alan Ayckbourn play makes a change from going out to see one and it is sometimes next to impossible to go out to the theatre without running into one of Mr Ayckbourn's comedies. People living in London or within range of it may run screaming to see something else, but in the provinces some of the most effective moments of suspense come from camera tracks down empty corridors where only a curtain flutters slightly, a knife blade sliding through the crack of a door to lift a candle, the wheezing score of an unseen presence behind a partition. The witches' coven is led by Alida Valli and Joan Bennett.

But Mr Ayckbourn is a success, and as theatre managers tell you, if they did not put on these house-filling plays of his they would not be able to revive such wretchedness as *Dear Octopus*. Anyway, the "anticipating American producer, David Sust-

kind, and Thames's Verity Lambert, obtained the best cast available for Mr Ayckbourn's trilogy and it occupied the hours of 8 to 10 on Wednesday and will do the same for the next two Wednesdays. Tom Conti plays Norman rather in the spirit of the play, as the heavy of *Glittering Prizes*. Mr Conti is basically an understated actor—not quite Spencer Tracy, of course—who suddenly leaps into action.

All Mr Ayckbourn's characters are already there, but Norman is one who suddenly leaps in earnest. Wednesday's play was *Table Manners*, in which Norman is all set to take the unwed, rather spinsterish Annie (Penelope Wilton) off on an amorous weekend but things go wrong. Annie's brother and sister-in-law (Richard Briers and Penelope Keith) arrive to care for Annie's bedridden mother, but the lovers never leave and a farcical plot unfolds with one grand scene, the dinner; a

rather mad hatter's tea party of a dinner. One comes to Alan Ayckbourn reluctantly, but he wins one over. He does it with tricks, with surrealistic touches like Norman wearing the dead father's old suit, complete with the shirt, socks and tie. He does it with childish games, like having the big but dull-witted sister of Annie's sit at the table on a small stool so he appears to be a dwarf. He also makes the sister a vet, and vets are already, anyway, like Wigan or Boggor Regis.

He does it with ancient devices like having Norman's wife near blind but too vain to wear spectacles. Low stuff, all of it. But he does it, and makes one laugh. On a deeper level he appeals because the extraordinary class family has broken down, and although this is not *Dear Octopus* there is still a reassuring trace of traditional family life about Mr Ayckbourn's comedy. It works as well on television as on the stage.

Harry Outside
New End

Ned Chaillet

With Lawrence Taubman's new policy for the Theatre at New End, Hampstead's former mortuary becomes the most "Off" of Off-Broadway theatres, adventurously presenting scripts from New York's Fringe. Rumouring through that sturdy body of plays that never quite made the leap into Broadway's big theatres, Mr Taubman has begun his first season with *Coram Jack*, 1975 play, a winner of the major Off-Broadway award, the Obie.

When *Harry Outside* begins, Harry is already out, freshly released from a psychiatric hospital, and living outdoors in the

Massachusetts forest, refusing to enter his wife's house. Miss Jacker keeps Harry outside, where he eats, sleeps and works on "The Project", a mysterious construction which is his last connexion with architecture.

But, as a once-great architect, a builder of skyscrapers, he still has a following. As well as his wife, he is surrounded by a pair of ambisexual women, by his daughter, his daughter's fiancé and an old man who is helping to construct the project. With the exception of the old man (who, like Richard Kay as Harry, is too young for his part), everybody seems to have a sexual connexion to every-one else, mainly through the fence, who services the ménage.

Miss Jacker uses the rampant sexuality for insidious purposes. If Harry is outside, it is because he is a male and

it is women that are concerned about insides. If he builds skyscrapers instead of houses, it is because he is insistent about his masculinity. To go inside is to go with the women but, however much he may resist it, the women are sure that they will have him at last, even if he has to die and be brought in.

Miss Jacker's symbolism is occasionally heavy, but more often comical. She has finely turned jokes on sexual subjects from male pride to lesbianism and woman's liberation. Much of the comedy is lost in Mr Taubman's production, however, because the rhythms of American speech frequently escape the cast, with the regular exception of Pauline Yates. *Harry Outside* has its pleasures, but if the bright policy of American plays is to work, American voices must be found.

LSO/Jochum Festival Hall

Max Harrison

For the opening concert of its 166th season the Royal Philharmonic Society chose Beethoven, and were rewarded, unsurprisingly, with a full house. They went further, and chose two works, the *Fidelio* overture and the piano concerto no 1, which had their first hearings in this country over a century and a half ago in this very series of concerts. On Wednesday the ensemble was the London Symphony Orchestra, the conductor Eugen Jochum, and their performance of the *Fidelio*

overture packed much force into its brief life. One moment of untamed brass playing near the close, indeed, suggested too much force, yet in other respects it was a predictably apt remark.

Fidelio is, of course, one of four overtures Beethoven wrote for the same opera, and the so-called piano concerto no 1 was actually his fourth essay in this medium. The soloist was Christopher Chen-bow, who gave an attractively decisive performance. Of necessity it had plenty of aggressive moments, yet more interesting were the many passages of unassuming restraint. In fact, during the opening *Allegro* con brio he at some points played more quietly, I think, than I have ever heard a concerto

soloist dare to do in this hall before.

In the *Largo*, also, there were moments of unusual refinement, yet the music's inner tension was always held, the soloist's expressive aim exact. Mr Jochum, too, characterized the first movement's themes with perception. That carried over into the third Beethoven work, his *Pastoral* Symphony, the opening movement of which emerged fresh with a fair measure of spontaneity, and yet finely drawn. Mr Jochum's interpretation was unexceptional in character, but in its nature satisfying. That applied to the rather more unconvincing movement as well, though there he sometimes dawdled over much while admiring the view.

Sleak Round House

Irving Wardle

The second Royal Court transfer of the week finds a spiritual home at the Round House following in the wake of *Boon-town Rats* and furnished with an hilariously illiterate souvenir programme celebrating the birth of snuff rock, duly launched on North London at the climax of C. P. Lee's "sort of musical play" when the lead singer knifes himself to death.

All that may be an old joke to the fans of Alberto V Lost

Trios Paranoias, but I hand it to Mr Lee and his director, Charlie Hanson, for bringing actors on to the scene and finding a way to make them work as they and the group, swagging in on Elton John glasses and plywood ties of Margaret Thatcher, can operate so effectively.

The chosen setting is the Bondage Azogo, a Midlands night spot where a toothless MC presides over the customers like an Auschwitz guard, and the two looming roadies (Gordon Kaye and Arthur Kelly) divide their time between assaulting anyone who comes near the cables and clubbing recalcitrant equipment (in fact the music is enough to blow the fuses: lying solely on a magnificent technique to pull her through. I fully expected the performance to end there. But no, Miss Veasey returned again after the second interval, returned to give a greatly moving and, in the circumstances, daring portrayal of the rage, spite and anguish of the deserted Queen. It was a heroic performance.

Miss Veasey's determination to battle with fate in the last two acts must have strengthened other members of the cast. Richard Cassilly, who had been an uncertain Ananias in the earlier part of the evening, suddenly became the man of destiny, singing with fluency and resolve. Anne Collins's Anna and Joseph Rouleau's Nabal, too, were more complete characters in the final act, when they took their places in the opera with a distinction that had been shown all along by Michael Langdon as a noble Panthus and Ann Murray as a delightfully ironic Ascanius.

Colin Davis, in the pit, might justly have been wearied by now with a production which has suffered the sharing of the superb first two acts, the loss of a performance through industrial action, an appalling translation into English and sclerosis of movement. Instead he conducted the score with as much brilliant panache and loving care as ever, though it was still an odd experience to sit through "The Royal Hunt and Storm" looking at an empty stage. Let us have madals and consummations next time, please.

The Trojans at Carthage

Covent Garden

Paul Griffiths

The Royal Opera's revival of *The Trojans at Carthage* continued in lucklessness on Wednesday night. Josephine Veasey, who has taken over from Yvonne Minton in the role of Dido, was clearly having difficulty in the first act, and it came as no surprise to learn that she was suffering from a virus infection. The second act found her in still poorer condition, re-

lating solely on a magnificent technique to pull her through. I fully expected the performance to end there. But no, Miss Veasey returned again after the second interval, returned to give a greatly moving and, in the circumstances, daring portrayal of the rage, spite and anguish of the deserted Queen. It was a heroic performance.

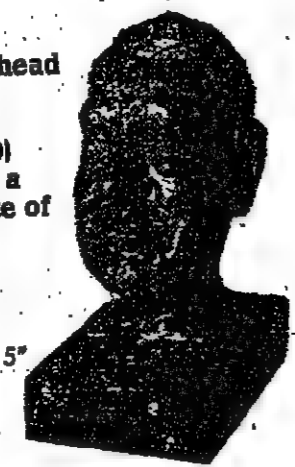
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act, when they took their places in the opera with a distinction that had been shown all along by Michael Langdon as a noble Panthus and Ann Murray as a delightfully ironic Ascanius.

Some of the notices on this page are reprinted from yesterday's later editions.

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The power of the painted image

For the Royal Academy to assemble a large exhibition of British paintings made during the Queen's reign seems an obvious and sensible contribution to Jubilee Year. Yet it represents a mild miracle, as it is not long since some of the artists would have shunned those august walls.

It is an exhibition which anyone interested in British art should see. Casual viewers will have an opportunity to approach a range of established artists who have been seen together before, and zealous will discover a few surprises. Both may find their previous conceptions altered, however slightly.

On the whole, styles have been grouped together, though not inflexibly. Some, like the constructionists, benefit this way. Others, particularly the field painters, find loss out on canvas. The special speculations on colour, shape, harmony or scribble margined, seem neither to settle into allusive escapes for twentieth-century minds to contemplate, nor to be exciting enough to elicit sustained involuntary attention.

On the other hand a juxtaposition such as *Levin's London in April* and Bob Law's *Red Black Brown Blue* works well: Levine's customary energy and acceptance of social reality counterchecked for further consideration by Law's dark rectangle. Another juxtaposition which now seems historical and creates links rather than oppositions is Bomberg's *Landscape* and Matthew Smith's *Still-life with Blue and White Jug*.

There is little hierarchy in the arrangement of the exhibition, apart from the placing of Bacon. He has five paintings (one more than anyone else) which cover the 25-year period. His images of man—the master violence of loneliness, the obsession and indulgence conveyed in the paint's manipulation—will endure. There may in the future be reaction to the mannerisms, and to have Allen Jones's *Black Beauty* hanging alongside is instructive. Its huge jokey soft-porn sickness emphasizes the element of sickness in Bacon and detracts a little (as do the sleek gold frames round his paintings) from his power.

The endearing Stanley Spencer final *Self-portrait* is hung near Carol Weight's portrait of Ororo Pissarro. The latter is one of Weight's best works, and its feeling and energy (much more condensed than in a lot of his paintings)



Self-portrait, 1959, by Stanley Spencer

make some of the more academic figure painters look a little remote. And there are others, some of them Royal Academicians (all 48 painter members are included among the total of 197 artists) whose portraits are disappointingly ephemeral. It seems foolish to accept that portrait painting has been virtually superseded by the camera; I doubt if there is any photographic image of Ororo as memorable as Weight's. And a group snap of the Vorticists would give quite different information from William Roberts's *Vorticists at the Restaurant de la Tour Eiffel* (painted long after the event). Yet there are not very many painters (and perhaps not sitters either) who have the staying power for important, imaginative recreations of identified people.

One painting that evidences staying power is John Constable's *The Family*, painted over a long period during which the *dramatis personae* grew up and changed, to be depicted in their new roles. Set in a suburban garden and dominated by a spreading tree, it suggests the psychic histories behind a

sunlit Sunday afternoon gathering. The dominating, isolated father, fading as he grows ill; the son with his back turned to the family, and perspective distorted hand outstretched. A painting which is redolent of, and informative about, its period. It is an inclusive painting, including the Wonnacott family at several stages and, by extension, ourselves. It hangs next to Hockney's *The Family*, which is a strictly exclusive, treating the seated figures and their setting as artifice, and leaving us to think about a skilled painting rather than ourselves. The third and final painting on that wall (one of the most interesting walls in the exhibition) is Norman Blake's *Low Flying Aeroplane*, which combines some of the qualities of the other two. A couple look up at the sky, the man shields his eyes; we almost hear the aeroplane. We identify with the experience, but not the people. Despite their ordinariness, like Hockney's figures they exclude interpretation.

Paddy Kitchen

RSC

Aldwych

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Tomorrow 2.0 & 7.30

Troilus and Cressida

Paul Scofield

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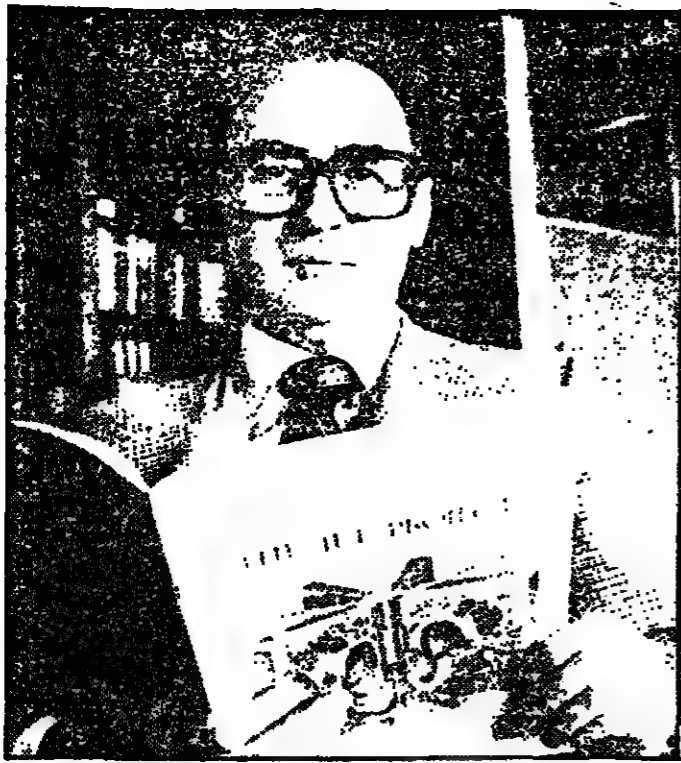
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Dr Guido Brunner: problems and dangers in an enlarged EEC.

Making the EEC bigger as well as better

The nine EEC member states are making a serious mistake by preparing to admit three new Mediterranean members—Greece, Portugal and Spain—without any serious collective appraisal of the likely economic and political results.

A major conference involving both existing members and the three applicants should be summoned to produce a grand design for an enlarged EEC complete with a new constitution amplifying the existing Treaty of Rome.

This drastic proposition has been put forward in a long article in the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* by Dr Guido Brunner, the former West German diplomat who succeeded his fellow liberal Dr Ralf Dahrendorf as a member of the European Commission in Brussels, and is now responsible for the energy portfolio.

It may look at first sight like another slice of European pie in the sky. But it is hard to deny Dr Brunner's basic contention: that the present ad hoc and administrative approach to the enlargement negotiations—those with Greece are well under way—is likely to gloss over or bypass the fundamental problems and dangers facing an enlarged EEC.

Dr Brunner points out that a rare degree of unanimity prevails among the Nine on the political importance of allowing Greece, Portugal and Spain to join the European Community. There has also been a discreet agreement so far on a minimalist and bureaucratic approach to entry negotiations.

Such old friends as transitional period, budgetary keys and temporary derogations (exceptions) are to be employed, it seems, to keep apparent change to the minimum.

But that is about as far as agreement goes. One of the key questions of Mediterranean agricultural produce, protected against enlargement from the rival producer regions of France and Italy. Previous wine wars suggest they may not all be verbal.

Yet there has been no serious discussion of what a

community will be like in which 50 per cent, rather than the present 20 per cent of farmers are Mediterranean. And how will protecting them square with those fundamental terms of the Common Agricultural Policy desired by the British, even if by few others?

It is hard not to share Dr Brunner's fear that in dealing with the intractable problems of wine, olive oil, tobacco, tomatoes, oranges and the like, the Nine will either gloss over or actually aggravate less tangible or edible ones.

Foremost among these he considers to be the need to establish a balance between the north and south, between rich and poor, involving greater expenditure on regional and social policies, and the delicate question of the free movement of workers; the parallel need to develop the EEC's industrial and energy policies and to end the present situation in which 75 per cent of the budget goes on the CAP; and the need to shore up the position of the smaller member states, which is threatened by a larger and looser grouping.

The threat posed by enlargement to the EEC's institutions is widely acknowledged. But once again a solution is expected simply to evolve from the realities of the negotiations.

Dr Brunner, who is expressing his own view rather than that of the Commission as a whole, assumes that European Union remains the target of the EEC. He no doubt shares the Commission's desire to relaunch the Community towards the sleeping stone of economic and monetary union (EMU), which could be seen as an attempt to pre-empt some of the problems of enlargement, notably economic divergence.

But the EMU will probably remain an elusive bird, while it is a near-certainty that the EEC will be enlarged, and that enlargement will create serious problems. On most reckonings, these deserve more detailed and public debate than they have seen so far.

Roger Berthoud

"When you've got it, why flaunt it?" I asked.

She'd said it was a shame to keep such an exquisite watch hidden in a pocket. Especially when it had cost £5,650.

But as I'd explained, the pleasure of owning this particular watch was the consequence of private contemplation as much as public display.

In 18 carat white gold, it was set with 69 fine diamonds.

Inside the transparent case, miniature wheels synchronised in silent motion within the delicate, hand-carved movement.

I described how each moving part was polished first with diamond paste, then with the pith from an elder tree and finally with the softest doeskin cloth.

She smiled.

"You're full of surprises," she said.

"All in good time," I promised.

Audemars Piguet

See the Audemars Piguet collection at Garrard's watch exhibition, October 4-21st Inc. 9.30-5.30 Mon to Fri. 9.30-moon Sat.



An American at Brighton: a lacklustre show perhaps, but significant too

The first thing that strikes an American no longer a visitor, watching his first party conference after a dozen presidential-nominating conventions, is the absence of noise.

In the spectacularly antiseptic new conference centre in Brighton, the delegates actually listen to the speeches. One waits in vain for the brass bands to play, for the balloons to drop from the ceiling, for the chairman to pound the gavel and to beg, "Will the delegates please clear the aisles."

The closest we have come to that this week was Joan Lessor's tart comment yesterday to an anti-abortion activist who kept braving for recognition, "I asked you to put up your hand, not to open your mouth," she said crisply, and he shut up. In his finest hour, Sam Rayburn, the Texas who dominated the Democratic national conventions, never produced that kind of instant detente.

Within a few moments, the stranger has to turn to his British friends for help with the language. Why, he inquires, do you do this? He hears the word "comrade" as a kind of verbal punctuation mark

when others never use it? What is this strange word "comrade" pronounced to rhyme not with "deposit" but with "plebsite"? Can one identify the Trotskyites by the frequency with which they associate every problem, even that of abortion on demand, with the imminent collapse of capitalism?

After hours, other contrasts emerge. The heavyweights of the Labour Party—Michael Foot, Shirley Williams, the Prime Minister himself—walk about like ordinary mortals, unencumbered by the phalanxes of security men and sycophants to an anti-abortion activist who kept braving for recognition. And one can approach the bar at the Grand Hotel, where the grandees are staying, next door to the conference centre, without fear of being trampled.

Almost all the delegates to an American convention of either party are prosperous enough to drink up £30 in an evening; it suddenly occurs to the stranger that many delegates here are genuine members of the working class, the middle class politicians making a dim if well intentioned effort to

understand and to articulate working class needs.

The big idea takes quite a long time to come into focus: this meeting is not about power at all. It is about ideas. In the best European tradition, the delegates, most of whom have little to do with the governance of the nation, are more interested in right than might; it is intriguing that only four of the 29 members of the national executive committee are also Cabinet members. For 51 weeks a year it is the Cabinet and the Parliamentary Labour Party that speaks for Labour. This one week it is conference that matters.

Even in this subdued year, when everyone wants to be responsible—translation: no one wants to be blamed for electing Mrs Thatcher—the passions show through in a way that is affecting even to the most cynical: Eric Heffer rendered almost inarticulate by his fury at the plight of his mates in the construction industry; Lena Jeger, that old warrior of the left, speaking of pregnant young girls in the poverty stricken East End "with their little calendars of pain and fear"; Ian Mikardo preaching

against racism. They may not change the block votes of the trade unions, but they care, and the television audience must sense that.

In America, such issues are debated well before nominating conventions in the party committees. But what everyone cares about is the choice of a presidential nominee, and the issues are submerged in that huge consideration as soon as the convention itself begins.

It is the absence of the choice of candidate that sets the party conference apart, and one wonders how different it would be if it were up to the conference and not the PLP to choose a leader.

In 1974, Donald Fraser, an Anglo-Irish congressman who has visited Brighton and Blackpool, persuaded the Democrats to hold a mid-term issues conference in Kansas City, and in the best American tradition, everyone paid more attention to the manoeuvring of the prospective presidential candidate than to the official debates on party policy.

The lack of a direct link between what happens in Brighton

and what happens in Westminster colours everything. The image that keeps recurring is that of a slipping clutch. Doctor Berry Beaumont, a physician and women's rights activist, but the case of the rank and file in asking that a parliamentary whip be applied on the question of abortion.

Let our MPs remember—they are the elected, not the elect. But a friend of Jim Callaghan's sees the question through a different lens. "This is our permanent problem," he said. "Conference is not a cross-section of the public, or even of the Labour voters, and most of the things that conference wants have negative appeal to the electorate."

There it is, one of the most enduring issues in the politics of all the Western democracies: how does a party satisfy its activists without offending the non-activist centrists upon whom it ultimately depends for election?

George McGovern knows about that question, and so does Barry Goldwater. McGovern in 1972 and Goldwater in 1964 mobilised the activists and seized the party machinery, much as the left has seized the NEC, but both managed in the

process—with considerable help from their opponents and from the press—to terrorise the middle ground of American politics. Both were overwhelmingly defeated.

Mr Callaghan, with his well established links to the NEC, the trade unions and the parliamentary party, has managed in Brighton this week to head off a confrontation between ideas and power, between right and might. He has demonstrated his understanding that, while the mastery of conference politics is not enough to guarantee an election victory, it is one precondition. (Had Hubert Humphrey exhibited comparable skill in Chicago in 1968, Richard Nixon would never have been President.)

It may have been, as my British colleagues have told me, the most lacklustre Labour conference in decades, but that in itself is a political fact of considerable significance. Intra-party strife may be the stuff of lively journalism, but it is seldom the stuff of electoral triumph.

John Aarol

The author is Bureau chief of the London office of the New York Times.

Bernard Levin

How the prophet of violence became the apostle of brotherhood



Eldridge Cleaver with his wife Kathleen: reconciliation with the ideals of "The Star Spangled Banner."

The extraordinary story of Eldridge Cleaver, on which I reported here in December 1975, has grown more extraordinary still. Before I go on to describe the latest development, a brief recapitulation of the salient facts in his life so far may be useful as background.

Cleaver was, with Huey Newton and Bobby Seale, one of the founders of the Black Panther movement in the United States, and an active leader in its most extreme and violent phase. Brought up in poverty and despair, he drifted early into petty crime, from which he progressed to the more serious (and violent) kind. He spent many years in prison, became convinced that the black people of the United States would never achieve their goal of an end to exploitation and discrimination unless they were prepared to use force, used it was charged, after a violent affray between Black Panthers and police in Oakland, California, in 1968, with various criminal offences, and fled the country. He wandered the world for a long time, living for a while as an honoured "refugee from oppression" in Algeria, and last year returned to America and gave himself up. (The disgrace of American legal delays—one of the darkest stains on the country's system—means that he has still not been tried, and there is no saying when he will be.)

What makes Mr Cleaver's story so interesting and important is that it is not just one of a man, sick of wandering, coming home to face whatever consequences his trial may bring. During his long exile, he experienced a radical change of heart, coming to the conclusion that his crude Marxism was untenable, that the United States, for all her faults, is and was the true home of liberty, and that the communist systems, which had once seemed to him to offer the hope of liberation for race-chained black men and white slaves with totalitarian despotism.

These things, on returning to America, he said: "I imagine he has not since he returned, been invited to many gatherings of the radical chic, who, from their comfort and affluence, used to applaud and encourage the violence and intransigence of the Black Panthers, and to agree, as they slipped their martinis, that the United States ought, indeed, to be destroyed."

So much for the story so far: now for its extension. It is clear that Mr Cleaver's change of heart was, or more likely has now become, far more radical than that implied by his new-found political maturity. He has become a full and committed Christian.

In an extraordinary interview with an American religious magazine of an eclectic and non-denominational variety, Mr Cleaver tells how he came to his present beliefs, and of what he has done to help measure the change in him, here is one of the milder passages from his writing in his Panther days:

Malcolm X... showed us the rainbow and the golden pot at its end. Inside the golden pot... was the tool of liberation.

don. Huey P. Newton... lifted the golden lid off the pot and blindly, trusting Malcolm, struck his hand inside... When he withdrew his hand and looked to see what he held, he saw the gun cold in its metal and implacable in its message: Death-Life. Liberty or Death, answered by a black hand at last!... The genie of black revolutionary violence is here, and it says that the oppressor has no rights which the oppressed are bound to respect... The cities of America have tested the first flames of revolution. But a hotter fire rages in the hearts of black people today: total liberty for black people or total destruction for America.

And now? What is most interesting in Mr Cleaver's conversion is that he has not abandoned his belief that blacks in the United States are ill-used, cheated, discriminated against, and unjustly treated; what he has abandoned is his former belief that violence is the way to change those conditions.

And now, as he faces both ways, he says: "I don't know any other way of dealing with the past. You can't change it. You can't rewrite it. You can't suppress it or hide it. And you can't do it again. The best you can do is kind of learn from it. So I decided to say adding, for importing ideologies."

Nor did he stop there. Discussing attitudes after American troops finally left Vietnam, he says: "I saw that the fact that the war was over wasn't really being taken into consideration... Once that stopped the question arose: how serious is the situation in the world? Well, the situation was extremely serious. There were other countries in the world who were hostile to the United States. Extremely hostile. Who were the United States? From revolutionary black violence, inspired by the Thoughts of Mao, to believing

that the United States needs a continuing defence capacity against the danger of communist aggression. (Mr Cleaver's present belief) is a change indeed. But even that need not imply a spiritual change. The crux lies here:

A lot of people who didn't go through things like I went through, they'd be going through other things that are just as violent to their being as what I went through... I find that everybody's talking about the same thing—No matter who they are, or what level they are, they're all talking about the same thing.

And from there, this remarkable man progressed to this remarkable position—remarkable, certainly, for one who professed himself a militant atheist:

I believe in a continuation of life after what we call death. But it's based on kind of a spiritual level. When you die, one of two things can happen. The charge can cease to exist,

or it can be somewhere else... And the evidence that I see indicates that you don't destroy it, that kind of energy. It's the force that's able to do a curious thing, like Father's child. And you pass on that life force and that life force, then, can outlive you. And people all down through history have thought about this. I can't handle the idea of something coming out of nothing... To me, it has to be something eternal that always was and always will be... there's a point on the frontier of our knowledge where you can choose to just be a sceptic... But there are other jobs involved, and other commitments involved, and other people when you share a belief.

One says "Okay, I'm willing to undergo this. I'm willing to say that I want to be a Christian. I want to believe in Jesus." And then practice... That, it seems to me, is how it works... In the past I've been just lost at things as political or economic without a moral or ethical dimension... I see that that is the ultimate failure: in dealing with human affairs. That the moment you throw out the moral and ethical considerations, you have reverted to the jungle.

When I previously wrote about Eldridge Cleaver, just after his return to the United States, I said that I hoped he would find democracy in his judges; it would be monstrous if he did not. But the contribution he can make to American society, by putting him back in prison. But now my hope is even more urgent, for Mr Cleaver has demonstrated a truly rare fundamental and potentially far more fruitful, than that contained in the social and political truth of his changed relationship to his country. He has, by his life and in his beliefs, shown that no one is inevitably lost, that no one is irredeemably buried in darkness that the light can never break in upon it, that no amount of hate can fill any individual so completely as to leave no room for love.

Eldridge Cleaver left America as the apostle of violence and revolution. He has returned as the avatar of brotherhood and reconciliation. May his witness be recognized.

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Dawn of brotherhood for the police and the man from Yorkshire

When I recalled the friendly relations that were established between Arthur Scargill, the Yorkshire miners leader, and the Metropolitan Police during various episodes of the miners' dispute, it came as no surprise to me to see that great upholder of democracy being lobbied by two representatives of the Police Federation.

Detective-Inspector Mike Sankey and Sergeant Fred Durbin had come to the Labour conference in Brighton to put to MPs their case for a wage claim only marginally short of 100 per cent. The Police Federation will be putting the same case in Blackpool next week to Tory delegates there.

With genuine expressions of what I understand to be "fraternal greetings," Mr Scargill told the police officers that, of course, they had his support. There was much backslapping and talk of brotherhood and

standing united together. Not quite the stance Mr Scargill and his friends took outside that factory in north London recently.

Visualize if you can, Humphrey Berkeley tottering into the foyer of the conference centre laden with books. They were copies of his recently published *The Odyssey of Enoch*.

Mr Berkeley explained that Ron Hayward, the secretary of the Labour Party, had granted him permission to sell the volume from the official bookstand at conference. The stand had duly been supplied and was sold out by Monday evening. Mr Berkeley had to dash off to London for more copies.

Party, he was worried that his former colleagues on the Tory side of the House had banned him from selling his work at Blackpool next week. I cannot imagine why.

And so to Robert Morley. I wrote, a couple of weeks ago, about his one man show which happened to be playing this week in Brighton.

Mr Morley is also playing, most nights after the show, in the Casino at the Metropole. I went along to watch his "method," having heard of his considerable wins at the roulette table. So far as I could see, in the early hours of yesterday morning, the method involves purchasing a vast quantity of

THE TIMES DIARY/PHS

"I hate to tell you, but your petticoat isn't showing..."

Placed outside a petrol station on the A40: "Fred is a good conversationalist. Half a mile towards Oxford, another notice: 'You will like Fred'. Half a mile further on, an enterprising hitch-hiker holding a placard: 'I'm Fred'."

Jam session After the heady, and really rather gutsy, business of an international centenary convention of gourmandizing on the grand scale, London members of the International Wine and Food Society turned with relief to more humble fare last night.

Until Monday, lunches, buffets, dinners and banquets crowded in upon each other until the belts of 450 gastronomes and gluttons could scarcely bear the strain.

Last night, with the overseas guests departed, the Londoners settled to the more leisurely and homely task of sampling jam, scones and tea. A traditional English tea, they sadly observed, was something many of the foreigners had sought in vain.

Perhaps we need look no further than the Society of Public Teachers of Law for the winners of the 1977 FA Cup. Let me explain. The society's vice-president, elected in 1974, was a Queen Mary College, London, man—and a local side, West Ham, won the 1975 cup. The following year, the vice-president was a Southampton man (actually the university's Vice-Chancellor) and the local team duly obliged.

Need I go on? This year's vice-president of the SPLT is from Warwick. When Coventry City win, remember you read about it first in this diary.

The two faces of the goddess Kali

Thus far, James Tye has survived the curse that an unidentified Hindu lady has put on him. I hope he continues to do so because his only sin is that of inflexibility.

Mr Tye is director-general of the British Safety Council. He refuses to change his mind about a poster which seems to have confused or hurt Hindus in Britain.

The poster could frighten some people out of their wits, but its only purpose (a commendable one) was to frighten factory workers out of careless habits that can cause accidents or waste. It shows Kali, the Hindu goddess, necklaced with skulls and devouring £5 notes.

"How much does she cost you?" is the caption. Mr Tye defends the poster by quoting from *Aspects of*

Habit forming I must warn you that you may find this paragraph too difficult to understand. The sentence you have just read is quite untrue, but you did not know that as you read it, so that cannot explain why it irritated you.

What happened, according to John Nicholson, is that he deliberately irritated you. Dr Nicholson, a professional jazz and rock musician before he turned psychologist, has written a book called *Habit* (published by Macmillan later this month), which explains why we do what we do.

It is going to make a lot of people uncomfortable, as well as entertaining and enlightening them. John Nicholson, who is married to one of the supposedly sinister dack-eyed beauties of the Think Tank, has habits of his own of which he ought to be ashamed, such as a passion for poker and an enthusiasm for Queen's Park Rangers.

مكتبة من المجلات



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BRINGING THE HOUSE DOWN

It is not the Labour conference that determines what is going to be in the party manifesto for the next election, so the consequence of calling by an overwhelming majority for the abolition of the House of Lords is likely to be indirect. A motion passed by a two-thirds majority automatically becomes official party policy, but not all items of party policy are included in the manifesto. It is for the Cabinet and the National Executive Committee, who are together responsible for the manifesto, to choose the priorities for that—just as it is for the Government later to decide which parts of the manifesto will be implemented.

Although the conference has specifically demanded not only that the House of Lords should be swept away but that such a proposition should be included in the next manifesto, it is unlikely that the party will make a commitment in these terms. The proposal endorsed by the conference is quite unrealistic. It calls for a single chamber Parliament which would impose an impossible strain on an already overburdened House of Commons. The quality of government, especially the quality of legislation, would inevitably suffer. Ministers know that as well as anybody so it is most probable that a form of words will be found that stops well short of a promise to do away with the upper House.

But this does not mean that the indirect effects of the conference's decision can be lightly dismissed. Once any proposal is party policy it is there ready to

be slipped into a later manifesto that may be drawn up under a leadership that might be less responsible or more easily pushed around. There is also, more importantly, the significance of such a massive vote of no confidence in one of the Houses of Parliament by one of the two main parties. This might not matter so much if it could be interpreted simply as conference hotheads taking the opportunity to let off steam for once in a while when they have had to restrain themselves for electoral reasons. But there is more to it than that.

It is not only within the Labour Party that there is dissatisfaction with the House of Lords in its present form. A number of the more thoughtful Conservative peers are discontented with it as well. It is not that the House of Lords performs no useful function. The quality of its debates is widely and on the whole justly commended—even though it is sometimes incorrectly assumed that all the debates live up to the standard of the best. Essential work is done in the Lords in scrutinizing and improving legislation. Nonetheless, a House of Parliament without elected members cannot command the necessary public confidence these days. No matter how well informed and well qualified its members—and not all peers carry their years with the panache of Lord Shinwell—it is bound as a chamber to seem something of an anachronism. It lacks the legitimacy that only elections can confer in a modern democratic state. An un-elected

House cannot therefore have the authority and the self-confidence to perform its tasks. It may not be given sufficient powers and it will almost certainly not exercise enough assurance to exercise fully those powers that it has been given.

Those who appreciate the necessity for a second chamber would be ill-advised to adopt a purely defensive position, extolling the merits of the House of Lords as it exists and resisting all attempts at its reform. The best way to keep it is to reform it. As with all constitutional measures, the details should be worked out in as wide a process of consultation as possible. But the main lines of change should be clear. The House should be elected and it would have to be elected on a different basis from the House of Commons. That points to proportional representation and to a regional system. It might be objected that if proportional representation were to come for the House of Commons there would then be no difference of consequence between the two Houses, but that would not be so provided that the regional element were sufficiently pronounced in the system for electing the Lords.

Such an arrangement ought in fact to be acceptable to many of those who now clamour for abolition. Although they attack the concept of a second chamber their principal target is the power wielded through the privilege of birth and an arbitrary system of appointment. An elected House of Lords would not be exposed to either of those criticisms.

Benefits and costs of higher productivity

From Mr D. C. McDouall

Sir, In your first article (September 26) you stated that the British disease is low man-power productivity, that our major economic ills derive from this, and blamed the trade unions for not fulfilling their 1965 assurances. In your second article (October 5) you state that all a worker has to sell is his productivity, and propose a machinery to let him get a higher price for it.

The proposition that it is the fault of the trade unions for not fulfilling a promise to get a higher price for their only wares seems absurd. For the most part, people act according to the realities of a situation as they perceive it, and according to their ability to influence events. When their action appears irrational it may be that they have different beliefs or values.

Trade union officials represent their members, the vast majority of whom want to improve their standard of living, want worthwhile jobs and will accept only limited self-sacrifice for the benefit of others. Faced with a choice of a new job that pays or unemployment and the role most people would opt for the former.

Improved productivity benefits shareholders and management directly and quickly, but rarely has direct benefits for the employee; and if it involves redundancy can generate a mood of "who will be next?" The long-term viability of an enterprise is not in the employee's control, and is not an individual effort. When improved productivity is perceived to bring fair benefits to all, it is accepted readily enough.

I do not believe that the British disease is "low man-power productivity" of which we are only a symptom of disease. I suspect that the disease is a refusal to believe that employees are anything more than working devices, to be traded in for machines when the cost-effectiveness equation says that is profitable to do so. And when those working devices show signs of selecting their own values and acting in accordance with them, we proclaim that we will have the law on them.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER MCDOWALL,
Logan,
17 Pine Tree Close,
Wimborne,
Dorset.

From Mr George Wansborough

Sir, The first of Mr Rees-Mogg's articles on the poverty equation

provided a brilliant and convincing diagnosis of our country's fundamental weakness; but left us agog to hear what practical steps could be taken to put us on the right road. His second article, quoting the sensible and politically well-balanced proposals of Andrew Shonfield, gives us the guns of a programme which the Conservative Party could, with great advantage, adopt. But supplementary steps would be needed.

Those whom the reduction of over-manpower would make redundant would have to find employment chiefly in the industries manufacturing the increased volume of labour-saving equipment which would be required. These industries need skills both different from, and greater than, those which the redundant would have; and those presently available with such skills would quickly be absorbed.

An intensive programme of industrial training would therefore be a necessary corollary to the Shonfield proposals; and it would be up to all parties concerned, Government, employers and trades unions, so to act as to make sure that the remuneration of skilled workers was in accordance with their greater value to the community and the efforts made by them to improve their skills.

It would be easy to expound the economic logic of such a programme; and its appeal while it should be apparent to all thinking men and women, would be particularly strong to those wishing to better their position by their own individual efforts. It would fit beautifully into a programme for the Conservative Party.

Yours faithfully,

GEORGE WANSBROUGH,

Dynamis Ltd.,

Udinston Cottage,

Osterhouse Hill,

Winchester,

Hampshire.

From Mr Ben Vincent

Sir, Almost all who write you on this subject assume that high productivity is desirable, stop. Both the anecdotes you print today (October 4) on this theme illustrate the attitude of some capitalists that he was made redundant because he increased his employer's tax liability by rendering them richer through making half their employees redundant. Another anecdote is arguing that coffee should be brewed and served to travellers on a moving train by only one person, which would make his mate redundant.

One does not have to be a Luddite

which they believe will be better suited to their needs.

They may be wrong in this belief; the boys' sixth form may not be the best environment for them or it may not offer the combination subjects they wish to study. In that case it is the job of the headmaster and his staff to cooperate in discouraging a transfer that is not in the girls' interests. But if no such objection arises the headmaster has every right to consider the application on its merits.

To suggest that headmasters are "poaching" is rather disingenuous. It is well known that long before the boys' schools opened their sixth forms, girls were leaving their independent schools at 16. Even now, when over 40 boys' sixth forms admit girls, the majority of girls leaving at 16 do not go to boys' schools. They are leaving school for good or they are going to maintain sixth forms, colleges of further education and the sixth forms of other girls' schools. It may be tempting to blame the boys' schools for this 16+ exodus but it is inaccurate.

I imagine that all headmasters in the independent sector would agree that it is important to protect parental choice by ensuring that good girls' schools continue to flourish. They are not insensitive to the position of these girls' schools whose sixth forms are disintegrating but they cannot be expected to subscribe to the view that the best way to help such schools is to reverse a policy that so obviously reflects widespread demand.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN RAE,

Head Master,

Westminster School, SW1,

October 4.

Girls at boys' schools

From The Head Master of Westminster School

Sir, It is always risky to condemn what is what is reported to have said and I am sorry that the Headmaster of Westminster College (letter, September 24) did not ask for a full text of my address to the headmasters' Conference before writing.

He did indeed argue that some girls could only achieve equal opportunity by transferring to the sixth form of a boys' school, but I was careful to qualify that statement in three ways.

First, I emphasized that "No one has done more for the cause of girls' education than the independent and direct grant schools that have always encouraged girls to aim for the highest of which they were capable". Secondly, I insisted that the independent sector's opportunity by underlining such schools. Finally, I argued that "No one would wish a girl to enter the sixth form of a boys' school where the authorities had not given full and responsible consideration to all the implications of this change in the school's policy".

Miss Manners was not content with condemning a speech she had neither heard nor read. She accused headmasters of enlisting public school headmasters, enlisting innocent and unwilling girls into their schools would be a suitable subject for Victorian melodrama but it bears no relation to the facts. The boys' schools opened their sixth forms in response to demand. Girls apply to enter those sixth forms because they want to do so. Their motives are uncomplicated: they are seeking a sixth form education

support the negotiating machinery

of a union, he would regard a strike as an attempt to impose will by force, and therefore unacceptable. That is my own view but, like my race and my sex, it is entirely my own business and requires no justification to any tribunal.

Those who bleat about non-uniformists accepting the fruits of union negotiation, without paying union subscriptions, are childish in the extreme. There have always been people wanting something for nothing! That is no reason for bullying them, and the law should protect the individual against the bully's policy of "might is right".

Yours faithfully,

PATRICIA EDE,

203 Woodstock Road,

Oxford.

October 3.

Future of nuclear power

From Dr L. S. Taitz

Sir, In stating that a major nuclear power programme for 1980 is inevitable, you make one assumption that needs to be challenged, namely that the rate of consumption of goods by individuals in the developed world will continue to rise at the rate we have become used to during the last 30 to 40 years.

This exponential growth manifestly cannot continue indefinitely. Indeed, the very need to invest massively in the nuclear programme would act as a damper on such consumption for years to come.

Because the developed world has the lion's share both of production and consumption resources, it would be possible for developing nations to significantly increase their economic activity without putting intolerable pressure on the world's stocks of fossil fuels. Thus it is quite possible to write a scenario consisting of low or no economic growth in the developed

world, substantial economic growth in the developing world, accompanied by a gradual transition to a worldwide basis from a high growth, high consumption economic system to a low growth, non-consumption one, with the accent on conservation and recycling of materials.

Admittedly, such a change would be an historic one and involve massive alterations in the way of life, but surely this is a better alternative to the appalling prospect of the kind of totalitarian state haunted by the spectre of increasing cancer rates and other forms of radiation illnesses and the constant danger of nuclear war caused not by "responsible" states, but by extremists who have laid their hands on plutonium.

Yours faithfully,

L. S. TAITZ,

Chairman,

The Conservation Society Ltd.,

16 Nethergreen Road,

Sheffield,

Yorkshire,

September 29.

Closed-shop safeguards

From Miss P. D. Ede

Sir, Let nobody be deceived by the woolly proposals of the Conservative Party and the individual from the struggle of the closed shop. The proposed "points" to be "observed" will do little to safeguard the non-unionist from dismissal, and nothing whatever to help him to find employment in a closed shop firm.

It is nonsense to say that legislation against the closed shop could be not only ineffective but sometimes even harmful. If you can legislate against discrimination on grounds of race or sex you can legislate to protect the non-unionist.

The reasons for his non-unionism, whether religious or otherwise, are quite irrelevant. There must be many like myself who would

likely to lead to a breach of the peace, but the exceptions should only be well-founded and narrow. It is already a matter for some misgiving that thoughtless words expressing common prejudices might lead to imprisonment, especially when a topic of urgent and sensitive political concern is involved. The danger of vague legal constraints on free expression is far too great to allow the law on incitement to be extended, either by case law or statute, into an effective means of controlling political marches.

Incitement requires an utterance, which must be threatening, abusive or insulting. Any competent rabble-rouser can make his effect without overt threats or insults: a National Front march can intimidate simply by its silent presence. However unpleasant its views, its members have every right to express them within the law, which in this respect is already at least as restrictive as it should be. Threats of civil disorder must be met in other ways. "Racism is the problem today," said Mr Rees. "Let us not confuse it with public order." But where street battles between political factions are concerned, public order is the principal issue. Let us not confuse it with racism.

at any conference between a barrister and his lay client. Had these elementary steps been taken they would have provided an important check upon what was said by the lay client.

The Bar should never fear investigation—it should have nothing to hide; but I question whether it is in anyone's interest for incomplete work of this type to be used as a basis for criticising our system of criminal justice or the conduct of the legal profession.

Yours faithfully,

PHILIP J. COX,

1 King's Bench Walk,

Temple, EC4,

October 2.

Divine backing

From Mrs W. R. Davies

Sir, Bernard Levin (October 4) is wrong. Support for Concorde is an article of faith for Anglican bishops.

The first words of The Second Collect, for Peace—which shall never alter, but daily be said at Morning Prayer throughout the Year—are:

"O God, who art the author of peace, and lover of concord..."

Yours sincerely,

PATRICIA DAVIES,

6 Cayendish Road, W4,

October 5.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Back him or sack him?

From Mr S. R. G. Banks

Sir, "Back us or sack us," says Mr Callaghan. Would that he would give us the opportunity. Yours faithfully,
S. R. G. BANKS,
Fetherwyn,
Curlew Road,
Newbury,
Berkshire,
October 6.

Rhodesian inquiry

From the Roman Catholic Bishop in Central London

Sir, The Rhodesian Prime Minister's statement that he would welcome an independent inquiry into allegations of atrocities committed by members of the Rhodesian security forces is timely. Only last week it was reported that a group of 20 unarmed black civilians were killed by members of the Rhodesian army. The circumstances give rise to considerable concern. Groups such as these are variously referred to as "terrorist recruits", "curfew breakers", "civilians running with and assisting terrorists" or "falling to help or simply 'caught in crossfire'". The total killed in these circumstances in the past nine months exceeds 300.

The Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace in Rhodesia points out in their latest report that the incidents, by means isolated, "illustrate the lack of distinction between civilians and belligerents and the disregard for the safety of civilians".

The position of "the man in the middle", the rural African living in the so-called operational areas, is intolerable. He is caught in a classic "have you stopped beating your wife?" situation. We are told that he does not support the guerrillas, but is caught by false promises, kidnapped, brutalised and then abandoned by them into giving support. This unwilling victim of the guerrillas, forced against his will to join them, is in danger of being referred to as a "terrorist recruit" and, though untrained, shot and killed by the security forces.

The official Rhodesian Government communiqué about this latest incident says that it shows "the folly of black Rhodesians accepting terrorist promises of safe conduct to Mozambique for further education". I suspect, rather, that it shows not only the part of the rural African, so much as a tragic unconcern on the part of certain members of those forces charged with the upholding of law and order and with the protection of the innocent.

The proposed independent inquiry welcomed by Mr Smith and repeatedly requested by the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace in Rhodesia is urgently needed, and could be a significant element in the process of restoring peace with justice in Rhodesia. Yours faithfully,
DAVID KONSTANT,
Bishop in Central London,
31 Holland Park Gardens, W14,
September 30.

Radical thought

From Dr A. H. Halsey

Sir, I am not a Marxist. If we are to use simplifying labels I am a Christian Socialist. I deplore, as liberals do, any attempt to undermine the status quo as a forum of rational debate. I therefore oppose, with Miss Marks (October 3), any attempt to ban Jewish societies in British universities.

I would also claim a decent nationalism but against any "Flow (October 3). I would not see this as incompatible with criticism of my country's institutions. More particularly I believe Professor Gould's pamphlet to be inimicable to the essential aims of a university.

Yours faithfully,
A. H. HALSEY,
University of Oxford,
Department of Social and Administrative Studies,
New Barnet House,
28 Little Clarendon Street,
Oxford 4.

Early 'talkie' miseries

From Mr Arthur Abeles

Sir, In Michael Freedland's interesting article (October 1) about the arrival of sound in the motion picture industry he writes of some of the resulting complications, like the misery it brought to foreign stars and to those whose speaking voices didn't match their image, and the difficulties of recording while filming.

What he didn't mention were the enormous problems which arose in distributing the "talkies"—like when the film went to Boston and the discs went to Chicago—or when a disc was broken or scratched—or when the film was patched which happened even now and then the whole thing, as a result, was completely out of "synch".

Nor did he refer to the dozens of warehouses Warner Bros. had to rent to store the thousands of discs which were beginning to pile up with every new production. In fact the glorious start to sound movies was swiftly turning into a nightmare until a way was found to put the sound on the edge of the film, and after massive and costly lawsuits the various patents were pooled.

Yours sincerely,

ARTHUR ABELLES,

P.J. George Jessel never again spoke to Al Tolson for taking "his" role in The Left Sinner.

3 Durdham Place, SW2.

Good dog

From Mr Denis Atherton

Sir, During a TV dog food commercial our newly arrived Golden Retriever pup walked to the set, pressed its nose to the selector buttons and changed the programme to RSC 2.

We are breeding a more intellectual animal these days?

Yours faithfully,

DENIS ATHERTON,

Old Cottage,

Hinton Woodlands,

Bramdean,

Hampshire.

FREE TRADE IN CARS

For some time publicity has been given to the fact that imported cars are capturing an increasing share of the British market. For the past two months the proportion has been over half. Inevitably, this has given strength to the forces of protectionism. In particular, encouraged by the Government's strong line about the imbalance of trade with Japan, there have been increasing signs of hostility to the import of Japanese cars.

Before these sentiments develop into the sort of swell of public opinion to which ministers feel bound to react, it is as well to stress some salient facts. The first is that foreign cars are gaining a larger share of the market because a larger and larger proportion of consumers choose freely to buy them. To some extent this may be because foreign manufacturers are offering particular models at prices which suit the market better than domestic products. In the main, however, it is because of

disgraceful delays in delivery of cars which the British public would rather things being equal, be pleased to buy. For this situation no one is to blame except the British car manufacturing and component supplying industry. To use it directly or indirectly to discourage the supply of foreign cars to the market is to limit the rights and choice of the consumer. Clearly unfair marketing by any importer, the sole purpose of which is to destroy a section of British industry and the employment that goes with it, must be resisted by the Government. But in these things a more present danger is a disregard for the consumer.

The second point is that Britain's trade in automotive products as a whole is not in deficit, or anything like it. Last year, which was by no means a good year, there was a net surplus of exports over imports of some £1,600m. The reason why this fact receives such little attention is that the industry

focuses so exclusively on the sales of assembled cars alone. If you take the whole of the automotive industry, including component manufacturers, it is taken into account, the conclusion can only emerge that as a country we have the strongest possible vested interest in the continuance and expansion of free trade in this area.

This is an extension of the point that the world motor industry is becoming increasingly integrated. A car built by Ford (United Kingdom) will have its share of imported components and fittings. A car imported from Ford (Germany) may have its share of exported British components. It is an increasing anachronism to think of much of the car industry as national in the conventional sense, since its investment and production decisions are made on the basis of other considerations. It is to be hoped that such anachronistic thinking will not be allowed to influence policy.

PUBLIC ORDER AND RACE

The Home Secretary's words about National Front marches yesterday were spoken in an attempt to fend off a move to seek for holders of his office powers that he did not want. Under the law as it stands, the Home Secretary cannot ban marches likely to lead to disorder unless the chief of police in the area concerned asks him to. The Labour Party conference passed a resolution calling for the Home Secretary to be given powers to ban marches on political grounds, even after hearing a warning from Mr Rees that his successors might use it against organizations that the conference would not want to see silenced. Instead he argued that a better weapon against racists was already available, in the new incitement provisions in the Race Relations Act 1976.

Mr Rees was right in seeing the dangers behind the conference's invitation to legislate the heat of reaction to this summer's Jewish riot. The procedure laid down in the Public Order Act 1936 may need revision here and there, but its basic approach is surely right. The decision to ban a march is partly a practical question which

only the local police can fully assess, and partly a matter of political judgment. It should be shared between a policeman and a politician. As for a general ban on demonstrations organized in the name of the National Front, it would be an oppressive and the easiest thing in the world to evade.

But there are also dangers in putting too much reliance in the approach that Mr Rees favours. Until a few months ago the prosecution in a case of incitement to racial hatred had to prove an intent to do exactly that. Most defendants could take secure refuge behind the claim that they were merely seeking to make forthright comments on a matter of undeniable public interest. It has yet to be seen how the courts will interpret the new law, but it is neither likely nor desirable that they should allow it to become anything resembling a general weapon against provocative demonstrations.

Incitement is an offence that can lead to imprisonment for up to two years. Normally the law holds that there can be no guilt in such a serious matter without guilty intent. There is an exception elsewhere in the Public Order Act, concerning conduct

likely to lead to a breach of the peace, but the exceptions should only be well-founded and narrow. It is already a matter for some misgiving that thoughtless words expressing common prejudices might lead to imprisonment, especially when a topic of urgent and sensitive political concern is involved. The danger of vague legal constraints on free expression is far too great to allow the law on incitement to be extended, either by case law or statute, into an effective means of controlling political marches.

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Plea bargaining

From Mr Philip J. Cox, QC

Sir, It is regrettable that Drs Baldwin and McConville have thought fit to suggest in their letter of October 1 that the Bar had refused to cooperate in the investigations upon which their book *Negotiated Justice* is based.

As I understand the position, the "research" which intimately involved a consideration of the conduct of the barristers briefed in the 121 cases under scrutiny, was carried on by Drs Baldwin and McConville during the years 1975 and the early part of 1976. The first knowledge of it that I had, as Leader of the circuit most concerned, was in November 1976 when Mr David Napley, the President of the Law Society, was good enough to tell me of it at a chance meeting in London. So far as I am aware this was the first that the Bar knew of the matter.

It was, of course, well known that Drs Baldwin and McConville were conducting a survey into the rate of acquittals in contested jury trials and it was in respect of that survey that the Senate decided that it would not be right for the Bar to participate because of the nature of the questions it was proposed to put to barristers. When that decision was reached no question of an

investigation into plea bargaining was mooted.

Upon hearing of the existence of the first draft of *Negotiated Justice* I immediately took steps to obtain a sight of it and in early January 1977 I told them that, in my opinion, each of the barristers, whose conduct had been impugned, should at the very least be given the opportunity of dealing with the criticism levelled against them and I made it clear that the Bar could properly cooperate in this. I was told by them that this would be quite impracticable not only because in each case the convicted person had been given a promise of total confidentiality but that it was also proving very difficult to trace these people due to the lapse of time. I was also informed that they had more or less exhausted their funds and would find it difficult to finance any further investigation.

I told them that in my view their investigation was less than half complete and that I found it surprising that in no single case had they sought to obtain a copy of the brief to counsel which would have constituted a proof of evidence of the accused person, nor had they sought an interview with the solicitor concerned whose representative should always be present

at any conference between a barrister and his lay client. Had these elementary steps been taken they would have provided an important check upon what was said by the lay client.

The Bar should never fear investigation—it should have nothing to hide; but I question whether it is in anyone's interest for incomplete work of this type to be used as a basis for criticising our system of criminal justice or the conduct of the legal profession. Yours faithfully,
PHILIP J. COX,
1 King's Bench Walk,
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October 2.

Divine backing

From Mrs W. R. Davies

Sir, Bernard Levin (October 4) is wrong. Support for Concorde is an article of faith for Anglican bishops.

The first words of The Second Collect, for Peace—which shall never alter, but daily be said at Morning Prayer throughout the Year—are:

"O God, who art the author of peace, and lover of concord..."

Yours sincerely,

PATRICIA DAVIES,

6 Cayendish Road, W4,

October 5.

THE COMPLETE CONSTRUCTION SERVICE

Signal from Tokyo triggers further widespread pressure on the dollar

Caroline Atkinson
A hectic trading on the foreign exchange markets yesterday morning saw the dollar fall to a four year low against the yen, and dropped sharply against most other currencies, closed down 2.25 yen at 160.75.

This is the first time this year the dollar has broken through 260 and the authorities have been waiting to see the next psychological barrier will be broken.

The dollar closed down against the Deutsche mark at 2.2925 and the Swiss franc at 2.2125. Its effective depreciation since Smithsonian signed to 1.29 per cent.

Starting strengthened against the dollar with the Bank of England taking in some dollars to the reserves in the morning as it held the effective rate steady at 62.4, unchanged from 61.7607 at one point, eventually closed at 1.7597, points up on the day.

Stronger pound worries Whitehall

David Blake
Despite of, or perhaps because of, the upward pressure on the pound, the Treasury is worried about the possibility of a further rise in the pound. The Treasury is worried about the possibility of a further rise in the pound. The Treasury is worried about the possibility of a further rise in the pound.

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IPs challenge unspecified industry Act guarantees

Concern was voiced by MPs yesterday over the provision of industry Act guarantees. The MPs are concerned about the provision of industry Act guarantees. The MPs are concerned about the provision of industry Act guarantees.

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THE AGRICULTURAL MORTGAGE CORPORATION LIMITED

Issue of £3,000,000
Variable Rate Bonds 1st October 1982

Application has been made to the Council of The Stock Exchange for the Bonds to be admitted to the Official List.

The Bonds have been placed for payment in full on Friday, 7th October 1977, on which day dealings are expected to start.

In accordance with the requirements of the Council of The Stock Exchange, a proportion of the Bonds has been made available in the market for members of the public.

Particulars of the Bonds may be obtained during normal business hours at:-

The Bank of England
New Issues, Watling Street, London EC4M 9AA.

The Agricultural Mortgage Corporation Limited
Bucklersbury House, 3, Queen Victoria Street, London EC4N 8DU.

Mullens & Co.
15, Moorgate, London EC2R 6AN.

The Stock Exchange
London EC2N 1HP.

There was no clear reason for the further sharp drop in the dollar yesterday, after the two previous days of relative calm. The markets are really waiting to see where the central banks will attempt to draw the line for the dollar.

There is a constant downward pressure on the rate because of the huge trade deficit this year, and the poor outlook for next.

When the Japanese authorities let the yen strengthen beyond 260 in Tokyo yesterday this was a signal to markets all over the world that the dollar had further to fall. The yen has now risen by more than 3 per cent against the dollar since it began to decline eight days ago.

The market is extremely sensitive to any bad news from America. Wednesday's warning against a rise in United States interest rates by Mr Charles Schultz, chairman of the American Council of Economic Advisors, was thought by many

which it uses show industry substantially better off than two years ago. However, with wages generally expected to run at about 15 per cent above the price level during the next year, British inflation is likely to be significantly higher than the level of most industrial competitors such as Germany.

Mr Joel Barnett's slip of the tongue on Monday, when he talked of inflation running at about 10 to 12 per cent late in 1978, is thought to be in line with internal Treasury forecasts.

The swing of euphoria towards maintaining competitiveness marks a reversion of the view long held by most Treasury officials, but which has recently been challenged by some academics and Cabinet ministers such as Mr Battersley and Mr Lever.

One unresolved problem is how a policy of bringing down the exchange rate next year could actually be implemented, particularly since it is thought vital not to have anything remotely resembling a panic collapse.

Maintaining the monetary policy for this year remains of prime importance. The pressure on sterling at the moment is upwards and the Government will be hard-pressed to prevent a rise this autumn.

Engineers' call to spur entry for technicians

By Derek Harris
Technicians as engineers should have a chance to qualify as chartered engineers, Mr John M. Ferguson said in his inaugural address as new president of the Institution of Electrical Engineers, in London last night.

The Higher National Certificate (HNC) route into the profession, involving studies while doing an engineering job, had declined drastically in popularity at a time when the profession needed more technicians, he pointed out.

Mr Ferguson said: "Considerable attention should be given to the future courses for this type of education with more opportunity for a proportion of people following this route to combine with further study and achieve chartered status."

He gave this warning: "On one hand we have largely closed the route for chartered status for the people with the ability and perseverance to acquire their technical knowledge while working in the environment of manufacturing, and on the other hand we have inadvertently encouraged a bias against manufacturers at a suitable area in which to pursue a career in engineering."

New PO chief named shortly

Mr Peter Banton, a non-executive director of Gallaher, the tobacco company, is expected to be named as the next managing director of the Post Office Telecommunications Division within the next few days. He will step into the vacancy left by the resignation of Sir Edward Pennessy in July.

Head of the telecommunications division he would be responsible for a 238,000-man industry with an investment programme of £3m for every working day.

Chemical Bank cuts base rate

Chemical Bank has again taken the lead over the major clearing banks by cutting its base rate for borrowers from 7 to 6½ per cent.

The London-based American bank claimed yesterday that the move was to bring its rates more into line with current market levels and was only in expectation of today's forecasted half-a-point cut in minimum lending rate.

Early warning index shows how inflation has cooled since March Price rises dip to rate of 7.8pc a year

By Patricia Tisdall
A sharp reduction in the rate of price rises is indicated in the latest Price Commission's index published yesterday.

The provisional index reading, which acts as an early warning to price movements generally, records an annual rate of increase of only 7.8 per cent for the six months to September.

This is a steep decrease from the August figure of 11.7 per cent and continues a progressive reduction from the high figure of almost 21 per cent in March.

The index is based on the price increases proposed by large organisations. It covers the nationalised industries and service trades as well as manufacturers.

These are compelled by the price control legislation to notify the Price Commission of

details of their intentions at least 28 days before the rises take effect so that the commission can decide whether or not to intervene. In many instances the time lag between notification and an increase in prices can be much longer.

The commission's index has shown itself to be a reliable forward indicator of price trends. Movements in it are ultimately reflected in the wholesale and retail price indices, although the interval varies because of the time lag between notification and implementation.

In addition, particularly for retail prices, there are other influences such as changes in the prices of imported goods or fresh foods, or tax changes.

And there are differences in the composition of the goods and services priced for the commission index and the official indices.

For these reasons, the commission's index is more of an indicator of the slowing down or speeding up of price changes than a measure of these changes.

Nevertheless, the commission reports that both the number of increases and the amounts sought have decreased markedly during the last three months.

Notifications during July and August together totalled only 611 with price increases by value at £321m against the comparable figures for June alone of 726 notifications, at £620m.

The commission accepts that it does not yet have a final count of the number of notifications in September. But it says the figure for the month will be less than half the totals for average months earlier in the year.

Furthermore, while the number of notifications may be up

on the exceptionally low total for August, the value of the increases sought is only slightly higher.

However welcome, there is some concern in Whitehall circles that the present sharp check in price increases may be a temporary lull. The fear is that as manufacturers become more familiar with the interpretation of the new price code and the attitudes of the reconstituted Price Commission there may be a sudden release of pent-up applications for price rises.

The Commission expects that while it expects the much lower rate of inflation to be maintained for some time, further reductions in the index over the next few months are likely to be far less pronounced, and there could even be an occasional month in which the downward trend is temporarily interrupted.

Datsun heeds warning to continue limits on sales in Britain

By Edward Townsend
Datsun UK, the leading importer of Japanese cars, appears to have reversed a decision to reconsider its voluntary restriction on sales and is likely to continue to regulate supplies to its dealers for the rest of this year.

The company, which has been under pressure from a dealers' action committee to abandon the sales curb, has cancelled a meeting due to have taken place next week at which dealers and directors of the company were to have discussed ways of easing the restriction.

Immediately after the announcement from Datsun that it would reconsider its restriction policy, Mr Dell, Secretary of State for Trade, made clear that the Government would itself reconsider the imposition of import con-

trols should Japanese cars capture a significantly more of the United Kingdom market this year compared with 1976.

In the face of such a strong warning, the Japanese appear to have started immediately to pull back. It is believed that in the first few days of October total Japanese penetration of the market was down to 10.7 per cent from 15 per cent in September, with Datsun's share down from 8.7 per cent in September to 7 per cent.

On this basis, Datsun's share could drop even further by the end of the month and the total Japanese share for the 10 months could be down to about 10.5 per cent, only marginally above the 1976 figure.

Datsun dealers, however, are to intensify their efforts to persuade the company to release as many cars as are necessary to fulfil demand. Mr

Peter Fletcher, chairman of their action committee, said yesterday that he was "going to bring the matter to a head".

In a letter to the committee, Datsun said it wished to discuss the question of restrictions with Nissan in Japan, the manufacturer, and pointed out that a Datsun-organized visit of United Kingdom dealers to Tokyo was taking place at the end of the month.

Datsun's sales in Britain in the last seven years have shown remarkable growth. In 1971 the company took only 0.53 per cent of the market, but sales have gone up in leaps and bounds since then. In the last two years the company claims to have kept sales down to counter political and protectionist pressures.

Leading article, page 15
UK performance, page 21
Business letters, page 20

American wholesale prices up again

From Frank Vogl
US Economics Correspondent
Washington, Oct 6

American wholesale prices rose by a seasonally adjusted 0.5 per cent in September, after a gain of 0.1 per cent in August.

The increase was somewhat larger than was widely expected.

The rate of wholesale price gains in recent months has been significantly dampened by sharp falls in food prices, but these were no longer evident last month. Food product prices in September fell by just 0.2 per cent, after a decline of fully 4.3 per cent in August.

Some increase was also registered in the last month in the price of non-durable goods, with a gain recorded of 0.8 per cent.

after a rise of 0.5 per cent in August.

The Department of Labour states that the wholesale price index now stood at 195.3 (1967 equals 100), which is 6.5 per cent up on the level registered 12 months ago.

Wholesale price gains have been exceptionally modest since April, following a rise of 19 per cent at an annual rate in the October, 1976, to April, 1977, period.

Some increase in the rate had been expected, although economists had hoped that the general slow-down in the overall level of economic activity would serve to dampen pressures for further industrial commodity price advances.

A number of economists have recently given warning that it would be dangerous to read too

much into the 2.5 per cent decline in wholesale prices between May and August of this year.

Today's figures tend to lend support to these warnings. The declines have widely been seen as reactions of a short-term nature to the previous strong advance in the year-end.

Argue Research of New York says in its latest economic survey, for example: "We believe these inflation rates are already at their low points, and that they will begin to move up again in the year-end."

The Federal Reserve Board shares this view and, given the new wholesale prices data, it is likely to be even more determined to reject the pressures from the Congress and the Carter Administration for easier money policies.

R-R Scottish plant rejects 10pc pay offer

By Tim Jones
Labour Reporter

Union leaders at two Rolls Royce plants in Scotland and East Kilbride, rejected the company's 10 per cent pay offer and indicated their determination to secure settlements of 25 per cent for more than 5,000 hourly-paid workers.

Shop stewards representing all unions at the plants declared their intention, in spite of warnings from the management that rises of more than 10 per cent could be being sanctioned from the National Enterprise Board.

A spokesman for the company said yesterday: "We are wholly opposed by the NEB and any breach of the Government's pay guidelines could result in sanctions by that body which could have serious repercussions."

The Scottish shop stewards' firm line follows the decision by the National Enterprise Board last week to give British Leyland a loan of £50m, effectively to pay wages and keep the company afloat, from money

sequestered for Leyland's capital investment programme.

Mr George McCormack, secretary of the shop stewards combined committee said yesterday that the management would shortly be notified of the men's rejection of the 10 per cent offer.

He said: "The men want a real increase in their wages. The inevitable outcome of the 10 per cent offer being accepted would be a decline in living standards."

For the company a spokesman said: "We have not been notified of the claim yet. But we would point out that we are wholly opposed by the NEB and any breach of the Government's pay guidelines could result in sanctions by the NEB which could have serious repercussions."

Opposition MPs have already described the decision by the NEB to give British Leyland a £50m loan as a "scandal" and may further indicate that the body was being regarded by the unions as a guaranteed source of income would be vigorously opposed by the Conservatives.

Doubts over pay deal depress shares

After a firm start based on interest rate hopes, share prices fell sharply on the London stock market as investors became increasingly nervous about the course of current pay negotiations.

The FT Index, 63 up at 10 am, closed just 1.9 ahead at 518.7 as light selling developed in late trading.

Gilt-edged stocks had a busier session, but here too prices were below their best as profit-taking developed ahead of the weekend. Gains throughout the range were around three-quarters of a point.

Last month's surge which took the index to its best-ever levels is reflected in official turnover figures. The total value of all deals was £22,374.39m, compared with £16,210.93m in August, and by far the best total of the year. Gilt accounted for £19,623.66m, against £14,521.3m against the best level for 1977.

How the markets moved

Rises	Falls
Berry Wiggins 5p to 31p	Assam Frontier 20p to 35p
Creflon Hides 4p to 42p	Heath C.E. 7p to 23p
Dowling G.H. 7p to 25p	Booth Gibson 7p to 23p
French T. 7p to 62p	Booth Gibson 7p to 23p
Holt Lloyd 7p to 12p	Booth Gibson 7p to 23p
Laurie 14p to 12p	Booth Gibson 7p to 23p
Morris 7p to 12p	Booth Gibson 7p to 23p
Norwest 7p to 12p	Booth Gibson 7p to 23p
Norwest 7p to 12p	Booth Gibson 7p to 23p
Norwest 7p to 12p	Booth Gibson 7p to 23p

THE POUND	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	1.57	1.57
Austria Sch	35.50	35.50
Belgium Fr	64.75	64.75
Canada \$	1.35	1.35
Denmark Kr	11.97	11.97
Finland Mk	7.49	7.49
France Fr	8.25	8.25
Germany Dm	1.40	1.40
Greece Dr	64.50	64.50
Italy L	1570.00	1570.00
Japan Yn	479.00	479.00
Netherlands Gld	4.46	4.46
Norway Kr	9.91	9.91
Portugal Esc	75.50	75.50
S Africa Rd	1.82	1.82
Spain Ptas	152.00	152.00
Sweden Kr	8.73	8.73
Switzerland Ft	4.26	4.26
US \$	1.89	1.89
Yugoslavia Dn	36.25	36.25

On other pages

Business appointments: 22
Appointments vacant: 10, 20, 24
Wall Street: 24
Bank Base Rates Table: 24

Annual Statements: 20
A.A.H.: 20
Best & May: 20
Wm Cook: 20
J. B. Eastwood: 20

Reliance Knitwear: 19
Interim Statements: 19
Holt Lloyd: 20
John Mowlem: 22
John Swire: 23

£3m slip up on Seal Sands oil terminal

More than £3m in regional development grants paid to the Phillips Petroleum Group for the Seal Sands oil terminal on Teesside have been recovered after the discovery of a mistake in the way the Department of Industry assessed the application for state assistance.

The Committee of Public Accounts said in a report published yesterday it was concerned of the mistakes and because of the large amounts at stake in large oil terminal projects it underlined the need for thorough assessment of grant entitlement.

It is the second time grants to terminals handling North Sea oil have been questioned. In February Sir Douglas Henry, the Controller and Auditor General, said he was concerned that large sums were being paid for projects that provided relatively few jobs. He based his comments on the likelihood that £160m would be paid on four terminals costing £937m that would provide only just over 300 new jobs.

Paying grants on these terminals is complex. Companies are entitled to regional grants if half the workforce is employed on the dewatering and stabilizing processing facilities that are needed for handling large quantities of crude. Staff employed on the storage facilities do not qualify.

At the £236m Teesside terminal the situation is even more complicated as there are three distinct areas—a processing site at Seal Sands, a storage facility at Greatham and a dewatering site at Dockside.

In March 1975, the department directed that Greatham and Dockside could be aggregated with Seal Sands and provisionally approved for the whole terminal qualified for grant on the grounds that 61.5 per cent of the estimated 424 employees on the combined premises would be engaged in processing activities. Grants of £3,500,000 were paid in 1975-76.

When the department began to prepare for the Public Accounts Committee examination it found that the direction on aggregation was wrong. It had no evidence that March 1975 that qualifying activities had begun at Seal Sands, a precondition for aggregation. There were also complications over leases and it was found that the Greatham storage facilities did not meet the geographical criteria for inclusion as part of the Seal Sands site.

As a result £3m of grants had been paid prematurely. Further payments were suspended and the amounts recovered by offsetting them against eligible grant applications for the Seal Sands site. The department expected that the Dockside area would become eligible for payment and the grant would be available once the "qualifying" activities began. The committee said its inquiries had produced at least £31m on the Greatham grants.

Roger Vielvoye

RELANCE KNITWEAR GROUP

Year ended 30th April	1977	1976
Group Turnover	11,675,181	8,926,472
Profit before Tax	781,337	113,956
Deduct: Taxation	86,787	55,129
Net Profit	694,550	58,827
Dividends	168,475	58,000
Earnings per share	118.5p	1.00p

- ★ Maximum dividend to be paid: final 1.875p net, making 2.875p net per share for year (1p).
- ★ Earnings per ordinary share increased from 1p to 118.5p.
- ★ Net assets per share increased from 33p to 47.9p.
- ★ 3-for-1 bonus issue after consolidation increases par value from 5p to 20p per share.
- ★ Order books generally satisfactory. Board reasonably optimistic on outcome for current year.

Copies of full accounts available from
The Secretary, Reliance Knitwear Group Ltd,
Hare Street Mills, Hare Street,
Halifax, West Yorkshire HX1 4DL

William Cook

Steel Castings for all Industries

From the statement by the Chairman—Mr. A. McT. Cook

Increased turnover is due mainly to inflation and does not show a real upturn in trade. Nevertheless, thanks to the high calibre of staff and employees, the Board faces the difficult future with quiet confidence.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS 1977

Year ended 31st March	1977	1976
Sales	22,960,381	22,496,622
Profit before Taxation	£243,540	£238,078
Earnings per share	4.56p	4.21p
Dividend per share	1.55p	1.33p

Report and Accounts available from
The Secretary, William Cook & Sons (Sheffield) Limited,
Parkway Avenue, Sheffield S9 4WA

Unions and British Shipbuilders still far apart on terms of voluntary scheme

Pressure on yards for redundancy agreement

By Peter Hill

Negotiations between the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions and British Shipbuilders over the terms of a voluntary redundancy scheme have run into difficulties. The hope was that the two sides would have been able to agree on the terms of a scheme by the middle of last month, but this has proved impossible. The Department of Industry, which is the sponsoring department for shipbuilding, is understood to have asked the three-month-old state corporation to accelerate progress on the negotiations. However, it now seems unlikely that an agreed scheme will be ready before the end of the year. Whitehall has already completed the drafting of a Bill which ministers have

stated will be introduced in the next parliamentary session but it appears that the corporation and the CSEU have a considerable gap to close in their negotiations. Against the background of massive overcapacity worldwide and the difficulty of attracting new orders, the issue of redundancy is an extremely sensitive one within the shipbuilding and repairing industries. Already some redundancies have occurred but other yards have managed to avert them either by securing new orders or by application to the Department of Employment for the temporary employment subsidy. As a result of making marketing a priority and the introduction of the intervention fund—designed to provide a subsidy to narrow the gap between

British and foreign yard prices—United Kingdom shipbuilders have managed to attract more than 400,000 tons deadweight of new orders this year and the Polish shipbuilding deal is finally confirmed next week the total inflow will exceed 600,000 tons deadweight. There has been strong opposition to contraction and redundancy from trade union leaders particularly since most of the shipyards are concentrated in areas of already high unemployment. Ministers and the Industry Department are anxious to see a scheme introduced which is similar to that operated by the British Steel Corporation. This offers terms rather better than those provided under statutory redundancy payments scheme. But union leaders are apparently still pursuing their claims for more

enhanced terms and have cited the scheme operated by the National Dock Labour Board which provides for payments to be made on a sliding scale ranging from £1,300 after one year's service to £7,000 for 20 years' service or more. The NDLB also operates a similar scheme relating to redundancy arising from illness. In recent weeks leaders of the CSEU have been discussing a voluntary redundancy scheme where severance payments would be made to men leaving the industry on reaching a specified age. But the issue remains far from resolved and Whitehall is anxious to see the matter concluded and is expected to raise objections to any scheme which appears to be more generous than that in the steel industry.



Dr. James Schlesinger: "We cannot afford to fail."

IEA 'Twelve Commandments'

From Ian Murray
Paris, Oct 6

"Twelve Commandments" to save the Western industrialized world from what was seen as certain social and economic disaster were laid down at the end of the International Energy Agency's governing board meeting here today.

The 12 basic principles were set out in a communiqué agreed by the 19 member countries of the IEA. They are designed as the guidelines which will help the countries to achieve a group target of importing no more than 26 million barrels of oil a day by 1985.

This figure compares with 23 million barrels a day now and a minimum of 42 million barrels a day estimated as necessary if present economic growth is to be maintained.

The measures cover conservation methods—including increasing prices to make lower consumption an economic necessity. Electricity production by other means, such as coal, gas and, of course, nuclear energy, are also laid down—although six countries had reservations on the nuclear question.

In the words of Dr. James Schlesinger, the American Secretary of State for Energy, if the measures are not effective "we would face social and political tensions not experienced since the thirties."

He could see the economic consequences of an energy failure "shaking the foundations of our society." He added: "We cannot afford to fail."

The European communities for their part are committed to try to hold their imports to the present level of 10 million barrels a day—helped by an expected three million barrels of North Sea oil. The remaining countries between them, including Japan, are therefore to be limited to a further 10 million barrels.

It is in setting an example to the others that IEA looks to America with particular anxiety as President Carter's energy proposals are fought through.

Esso finds heavy grade oil west of Shetland

By Roger Vielvoye
Energy Correspondent

Esso has boosted hopes that the Atlantic west of the Shetland Islands may become a valuable oil-producing area by finding non-commercial quantities of oil in its block 206/12.

Although the well flowed only 630 barrels of a heavy grade of crude, it emphasizes the potential of the area highlighted by British Petroleum's discovery of a similar type of oil in August.

Earlier in the week, Elf, operating for a group that includes Elf Aquitaine, National Oil Corporation, Conoco and Gulf, announced that it had found non-commercial quantities of gas in block 206/11.

Attention is now centred on the possibility of a rapid series of wells on block 207/1. The third well has been started and while Texaco says it has not done any production testing, sources in the industry feel that the programme has been successful.

The small quantities of oil found so far have placed the oil companies in a dilemma. There is the distinct possibility that there are more worthwhile quantities of oil to be found, but by next spring they have to hand back to the Department of Energy, 50 per cent of the acreage in this area.

Companies are now evaluating the results of this summer's drilling and it is possible that further wells may be drilled this winter to avoid the embarrassment of giving away acreage that eventually turns out to contain a commercial field.

Based on these initial finds, the area west of Shetland is of particular interest because the oil found is much heavier than in the North Sea and is the less valuable type needed by British refineries to enable them to produce the right grade of fuel.

Even when Britain is self-sufficient it will need to import this type of oil from the Middle East unless the Shetland area can provide all the heavy oil the country needs.

Talks open with managers for swap of 437 pubs

By Patricia Tisdall

A complex round of negotiations over pay and conditions has started between brewers and public house managers involved in the exchange of the 437 public houses agreed last month between Allied Breweries, Bass Charrington and Courage.

About half the houses are run by managers who in changing employers may encounter differences in salary grades and fringe benefits.

The National Association of Licensed House Managers (NALHM) is anxious to ensure that none of its members should be worse off as a result of the swap. The union has engaged in what it describes as "urgent and detailed" talks with the brewers concerned in an effort to resolve any differences as quickly as possible.

But Mr Harry Shindler, national secretary of NALHM, says the union is not going to rush the negotiations. The wide range of some of the

issues may mean that not all the agreements can be concluded by next January when the brewers hope to complete the exchange.

Tenants as well as managers have been told that the licensee of a public who wishes to remain with his existing brewer may apply for an alternative house with "similar trading potential".

Such a move, however, raises numerous domestic problems for the licensee such as type of school and shopping facilities, as well as a commercial comparison.

A code of practice agreed between the brewers and the National Union of Licensed Victuallers, representing tenants, allows an independent arbitrator to be called in if the two sides fail to reach a satisfactory outcome.

The brewers have also agreed to allow "incoming" tenants a settling-in payment of at least £300. They also said they would "sympathetically review" the trading results of each incoming tenant who feels that his profit has been reduced for reasons attributable to the exchange.

Report sets \$6,000m target for world commodity fund

By Melvyn Westlake

A \$6,000m (about £3,529m) fund, jointly managed and financed by the industrialized and developing countries with money also borrowed from the banks, provides a realistic and practicable way of stabilizing prices in the world commodity markets, according to a nine-man international team under Lord Campbell of Eskan.

Their report, published today, is now to be transmitted to Commonwealth governments by Mr Shridath Ramphal, Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Secretariat.

Lord Campbell's team was set up by Commonwealth leaders when they met in London last June to examine the possible detailed operation of a so-called Common Fund for commodities.

It was asked to prepare its report in time for the negotiations, due to start in Geneva, next month between the world's rich and poor nations over the setting up of such a fund.

The team included businessmen, commodity specialists, financiers and economists drawn from Britain, Australia, Africa, Asia and the Caribbean.

For the Common Fund—one which would act as a source of finance or one as a means of pooling the funds of individual commodity organizations—the report comes out in favour of the former.

This is the model that has been backed by the developing countries, while the industrialized nations have preferred the "pool model".

The report says that "the type of Common Fund which we envisage is one which would have independent financial capability to provide support to international commodity organizations and commodity producers".

It accepts that it is impossible to know accurately how much money such a Common Fund would need in order to finance buffer stocks, which would be bought or sold to prevent large price movements.

The report settles for a figure of \$6,000m. Of this, \$5,000m would be used for stocking up commodities. The remainder would support diversification out of unprofitable commodity production, as well as help finance research and development.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Misconceptions about Japanese car imports

From the chairman of the Datsun Dealers Action Committee

Sir, As chairman of the Datsun Dealers Action Committee, the efforts of which have occupied space in your columns recently, I am sure you will allow me to put the current situation into perspective.

Your assertion (October 1) that "With the number of unit sales up by 12,000 by the end of August, the Japanese importers have clearly been responding to the expanding market, the true position regarding United Kingdom registrations. Like many other arguments and statistics being bandied about regarding Japan, it needs to be taken in context, for example, just one European importer alone, Fiat, has in eight months this year increased its sales in the United Kingdom by 15,500 cars—more than all the Japanese put together, an illuminating fact which corresponds appear to have overlooked so far.

Equally, the total increase by Japanese manufacturers over the period to which you refer was less than 1 per cent of the market, while West European manufacturers increased their share by over 7 per cent, representing 85,400 cars. Such a situation shows an entirely different light on the popular and perpetuated misconception that Japanese cars are responsible for the large increase in the import share of registrations.

Indeed, it is the European manufacturers who have been flooding the market with cars and have taken sales at the expense of British manufacturers.

It is this incontrovertible fact that has led to our present action. Yours faithfully,

PETER FLETCHER, Chairman, Datsun Dealers Action Committee, Datsun of Britain Ltd, Meadow Road, Leeds LS11 9BX, October 5.

A barrier to growth of small firms

From Mr J. A. Cochrane

Sir, For some time we have been told by those that purport to "know" that the low level of investment in the United Kingdom has been and is due to a lack of demand for funds and not to a shortage of money to lend. This view is now being enshrined as official evidence to the Wilson Committee, and is in danger of becoming widely believed.

Our small, medium and large companies are being continually denied funds from banks and other institutions not because we have a poor balance sheet, nor because we have put up a poor case for funds, but simply because proprietors cannot put up if required security. There is a shortage in the demand for funds from small business, only a shortage in the supply. Funds that in our case could quickly be turned into jobs are exports.

Politicians have thought, wise to reduce personal wealth, but with it they have reduced the ability of proprietors to become security for loans. We require for the level of funds that many small growing companies should be using.

The Government should consider helping this sector by guaranteeing loans to it, because it would make life easier, but because growth in the small business sector gives rise to medium-sized viable industries, a better long term use of resources, both labour and capital, than propping up aimless industries.

Perhaps the newly appointed Lever Committee will look at these matters, but if it is to do so with insight it should consider people who have recently started a business from scratch and experienced the financial barriers to growth. Yours faithfully, J. A. COCHRANE, Cochrane of Oxford Ltd, Fairbairn House, Leamfield, Oxford OX8 5NT.

Cost of timber framed housing

From Mr David Helsen

Sir, On reading Mr D. G. Worthing's letter (September 27), I find it astonishing to the point of irresponsibility that anyone, even in Mr Worthing's professional position, should at this time advocate a form of house construction which agrees with your criticisms and indeed are currently introducing measures to our proposed Code of Practice which will require disclosure of

Surely no one knows better than Mr Worthing that virtually all constructional soft wood timber used in the United Kingdom is imported from nations outside the EEC and that the cost of timber to Britain's balance of international payments in 1976 was £48m.

In terms of building economics the average price of building soft wood, which now stands close to £100 per cu metre, has risen by more than 65 per cent since the beginning of 1976, due almost entirely to increased import costs. This increase is out of all proportion to increases in prices of indigenous building materials: during the same period the average price of all house building materials has risen by less than 40 per cent, the price of precast concrete products by less than 35 per cent and the price of bricks by less than 30 per cent.

Far from increasing the nation's import bill by encouraging timber framed housing, it is surely high time that we make positive efforts to substitute domestically produced materials for imported timber wherever practicable, thus not only improving our balance of payments but also relieving unemployment at a stroke. Yours faithfully, DAVID HEISEN, 55 Angel Road, Thames Ditton, Surrey, October 5.

Insurance premium 'mark-ups'

From the Secretary of the British Insurance Brokers' Association

Sir, In your edition of September 24 (page 18) you draw attention to the fact that some insurance intermediaries are putting a mark up on premium without disclosing that they are doing so.

The British Insurance Brokers' Association, entirely agree with your criticisms and indeed are currently introducing measures to our proposed Code of Practice which will require disclosure of

charges made in addition to agreed commissions.

As you are aware, the association has during this year supported the Insurance Brokers (Registration) Act 1977 and is now considering other measures to maintain standards within the industry.

Yours faithfully, ALAN TRALE, Secretary, The British Insurance Brokers' Association, Foundation House, 130 Fenchurch Street, EC3M 5DJ.

J.B. Eastwood Limited

Sir John Eastwood, Chairman, reports:

■ We made a record profit for the year to 1st April, 1977 and it is pleasing to report that the improvement was in all main divisions.

■ The volume and efficiency effects of our egg modernisation programme were just beginning to show through in the period, which resulted in a 14% increase in the number of eggs produced and a consequent increase in profit.

■ It is still the view of your directors that profits for the current full year will be of the same order as those of last year.

	1977	1976
Sales	£900	£900
Profit before taxation	156,765	116,260
Profit after taxation	8,339	6,787
Earnings per share	34.56p	27.46p

Copies of the Report and Accounts are available from The Secretary, Burnside Lane, Warsop, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire.

A.A.H. see how it grows

For the tenth successive year A.A.H. has grown.

Turnover is up 16.7% to £217 million, and profit 14.3% to £5.5 million.

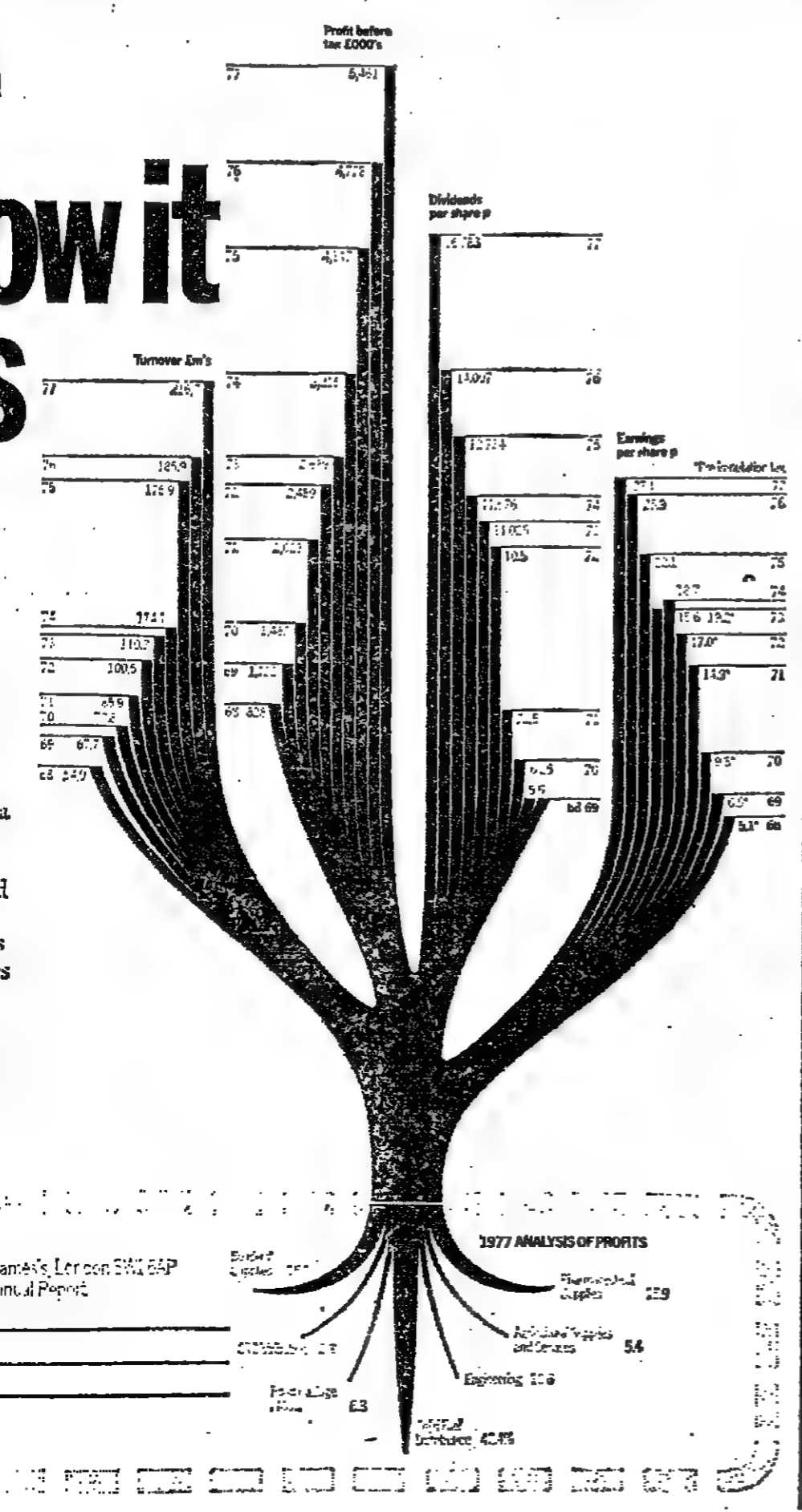
And as a measure of efficiency, earnings on assets are now 39%.

Our proposed dividend will show the eighth successive increase, and is covered 2.3 times.

Basically we are developing a broadly based distribution and services company, achieving expansion by internal growth and thoughtful acquisitions.

Our team, in over 300 places of business, shows all the qualities needed to continue to give the same good account of itself.

To understand in detail just what we have achieved and are planning for the future, send for our latest Annual Report and Accounts.



To: W. M. Pybus, Chairman
A.A.H. Limited, 21-24 Bury Street, London EC2A 4BP
Please send me a copy of the 1977 Annual Report.

1977 ANALYSIS OF PROFITS

1977 ANALYSIS OF PROFITS

1977 ANALYSIS OF PROFITS

Pensioners least hit by incomes fall

By Our Economics Staff

Pensioners, working women and the lower paid are the groups who have managed to increase their real disposable income since 1974, according to the latest issue of *Economic Progress Reports*, which is published by the Treasury.

The article, pointing out that state benefits to pensioners have gone up in real terms at a time when real take home pay is falling would seem to reinforce Mr Heslop's view that living standards for those who receive pay have been hurt to the gain of those relying on state benefits.

It will thus give him an extra weapon to argue for reducing taxation rather than increasing state payments.

The article shows that real national disposable income in 1977 was 34 per cent below its 1975 level, but slightly above its 1976 bottom. Real personal disposable income continued to fall well into 1977, however, only increasing when the effects of the Budget tax cuts began to work their way through.

The fall in living standards has been sharpest for those in the higher earning brackets, with someone on three times average earnings having real disposable income at only 90.1 per cent of their 1970 level in 1977, if they were single, and 93.1 per cent if married.

Someone on average earnings would be receiving almost exactly the same as in 1970 while on the other hand, a single pensioner had a living standard just over 16 per cent higher.

British buyers at gold auction

Washington, Oct 6.—Three British bidders were among the 12 successful applicants at yesterday's International Monetary Fund gold auction at which the average price achieved a record \$155.14 an ounce.

The IMF said Johnson Matthey Bankers Ltd, Samuel Montagu and N. M. Rothschild and Sons were awarded gold. The others were Swiss Bank Corporation, Swiss Credit Bank and Union Bank of Switzerland; J. Aron & Co. of New York; Bank Leu of Zurich and Bank of Nova Scotia, Toronto.

Cle Luxembourgeoise de la Dresdner Bank-Dresdner Bank International of Luxembourg, Deutsche Bank AG and Dresdner Bank AG of Frankfurt completed the list of 32 bids from 17 applications.—Reuter.

Holt Lloyd International Ltd.
Europe's largest car care group

38% GROWTH

INTERIM RESULTS

	28 weeks to Sept 10, 1977	28 weeks to Sept 11, 1976	52 weeks to Feb 26, 1977
Sales	£2000	£2000	£2000
Pre-tax profit	15,531	11,294	22,323
After-tax profit	1,605	1,159	2,152
Earnings per share	77p	56p	1,037
Interim dividend	2.75p	2.0p	5.0p

GROUP Sales and profit up 38%.

HOME MARKET Full benefits of the Holt Lloyd merger are now being realised. Strong sales growth reflects improved operational efficiencies and higher spending on marketing.

OVERSEAS We continue to strengthen our position in major markets, notably Australasia and Europe. Australian profits already ahead of total for whole of last year.

PERSPECTIVES Demand for Holt Lloyd products remains high internationally. I am confident that we shall continue to achieve an above average rate of growth during the second half year.

William Cheshire
TOM HEWWOOD
Chairman

REDEX MOLYSLIP DUPLICOLOR HOLTS TURTLEWAX

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Stage two of EMI's electronics gamble

A barrier to growth of small firms

From Mr J. A. Coleman
Sir, For some time I have been told by those who know the electronics industry in the United Kingdom that the industry is in a state of stagnation. I have been told that the industry is not growing and that it is not profitable. I have been told that the industry is not competitive and that it is not innovative. I have been told that the industry is not a barrier to growth of small firms.

Yet the essence of EMI at this stage of development is that it is using the cash flow generated from the music business in order to finance its electronics venture. This is a major gamble, and it is one that the music industry has never before taken.

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to increase their net holdings. There are several possible consequences. One is that gold holdings will become strategic reserves with little net change, which would be bound to have a positive effect on the gold price.

Property Educated guesswork

It was widely agreed that the Land Securities Investment Trust valuation for March 1977 was conservative, showing—as it did—little or no improvement from that two years previously. The actual yield of 8.86 per cent used in the 1977 calculation was almost three points over the prevailing yield on prime properties but W. Greenwell does not believe that this necessarily indicates the valuation was conservative.

Primes may well have been about 51 per cent but, as many now consider, this only applied to rack-rented freehold offices with five year rent reviews and a value less than £5m. The point about Land Securities is that the type of property which dominates the portfolio is old property with 14 or 21 year rent reviews.

Perhaps the view is correct but the real point here is that the broker is being forced to make educated guesses on rental income growth and hence property valuations.

Until a clearer idea of the assumptions used to determine valuations, and thus the interlinked value of the shares, are given the fundamentals of investment in this sector must remain worryingly subjective.

Discount houses

Future dividends provide the bait

Given the precipitous decline in interest rates and the strength in the short gilt market this year, discount house shares have naturally been among the market's top performers. Indeed, over the past 12 months the sector has risen by more than 150 per cent against some 90 per cent for the market as a whole—though one might note in passing that the scars of the last bear market were such that the sector remains among those that have still to regain their 1972 peaks.

What might have made the sector that more fun, moreover, would have been if this year's upturn in profitability had come in a period free of dividend restraint. As it is, one has to continue to make do with the statutory maximum permitted dividend increases and rather bald statements, such as that from Clive yesterday, that trading results have been "extremely satisfactory".

That said, the prospect of the dividend shackles coming off next summer could obviously be important for the discount houses. Without that there would be a temptation to start to take profits on the grounds that short-term interest rates are now close to their bottom and that the golden times are over.

The hope is that any upturn in interest rates next year will be relatively modest by recent standards and that the discount houses will be able to cope much better than on some occasions in the past. In addition, they should be able to use their enlarged capital bases to advantage if the economy picks up and there is a significant increase in commercial calls on the market. The real question, though, is whether the houses will even then feel confident enough about the future to lay on the kind of dividend increases expected from some industrial companies.

also one of the least desirable in which to operate in project finance because it was so remote.

He said it was frustrating to set up financing deals for British customers, only to then hand the matter over to the banks.

White's brief at Hill Samuel is to diversify project finance from EOGD-led credits for British exporters to a "more global role", that of financing projects led by multinational corporations and financing.

Win one, lose one. Eric Wain, the Secretary of State for Industry, has at last, we hear, found somebody to take on one of the toughest jobs around—board member for personnel at British Shipbuilders.

He takes over as managing director of the Hill Samuel project finance operation from John Macdonald, who remains deputy chairman to John Elton and a director of the bank. White, on the other hand, remains a honorary citizen of San Francisco, for with California property values jumping by as much as a third a year, he can't bring himself to sell his house.

Caroline Atkinson analyses the motor industry's contribution to Britain's foreign trade

Component makers hold the balance

Last year the well publicised benefits to Britain's balance of payments from the financial exports in the City totalled £1,545m. Less well known is that the net overseas earnings notched up by the British motor industry last year were £1,545m.

The trade surplus of the motor industry has not been quite so healthy this year—it was running at an annual rate of £1,522m in the first six months of this year compared with the £1,609m for all of 1976.

But this is still a sizeable contribution to Britain's balance of payments. It is worth noting as a corrective to the stream of bad news about the dismal trade performance of the car industry alone, the latest of which was yesterday's announcement that imports took over half of the home market in September, for the second month running, and 45 per cent in the year so far.

There is one important caveat to these figures. They do not take account of the import content of the raw materials, such as steel, used in production. If this were allowed for, the industry's net trade balance would be worse.

Cars, which in 1970 accounted for over a quarter of the total value of motor industry exports, now contribute less than a fifth. The dramatic losses in domestic markets made by overseas manufacturers in the 1970s has transformed a net surplus on car trade into a large deficit.

In 1976, £258m in 1976, and promises to be a lot bigger this year, as car imports were 62 per cent higher in the first six months of this year, than in the same months last year, while exports were only 18 per cent up.

The balance of trade was £243m in the red for these six months alone. The gap is even bigger when knocked down, or un-assembled, cars (CKD) are taken out. Exports of these cars brought in £103m in the six months compared to a mere £18m spent on imported CKDs, so the deficit on assembled cars was a horrifying £328m.

So where does the overall trade surplus come from? The answer lies partly in the commercial vehicle sector (which includes buses), partly in the large sales of agricultural tractors overseas (and minimal imports of these) but largely in the growing trade in motor vehicle components.

Last year the net contribution to the balance of payments from these three was £425m, £316m and £322m respectively. There was also a small surplus on other motor products, excluding cars.

The Europeanization of the motor business has had a marked effect on the trade in parts and accessories. With increased specialization in the manufacture and assembly of cars most countries have stepped up both their imports and exports of vehicles. The supply of spare parts across national boundaries has naturally followed this.

Now the streamlining of production requirements and the growth of the multinational car makers, who pick their suppliers irrespective of nationality, has boosted trade

in original equipment as well. As much as 45 per cent of the British industry's export earnings now come from overseas sales of parts and accessories.

This trade is more concentrated geographically than that of assembled vehicles. For example, whereas 27 per cent of the United Kingdom's car exports went to other EEC countries last year, nearly 40 per cent of its overseas sales of parts and accessories were in EEC countries.

The United States, in contrast, provided a market for 26 per cent of Britain's total car exports, but only 11 per cent of components.

Britain's main component manufacturers took early advantage of the growing international business. Overseas markets were typically more buoyant in the early 1970s as United Kingdom car sales stagnated. Foreign manufacturers whose production lines are less often disrupted than those in Britain provide a steadier market for suppliers.

Thus Britain's exports of parts and accessories shot up by nearly 50 per cent between 1970 and 1972, significantly more than the 35 per cent rise in the industry's total exports. However imports of components rose even faster over the same three years.

A further 114 per cent rise in the next three years in the United Kingdom's overseas sales of parts and accessories added up to £1,504m last year, and those British component manufacturers who get a large part of their business from overseas believe that this growth will continue in the next few years.

Lucas, which with the West German Bosch group now dominates the European supply of electrical and electronic materials, generates 70 per cent of its £700m to £800m sales overseas. This includes the manufacture of overseas plants for example, electrical equipment, brakes, and diesel injection units.

Setting up overseas subsidiaries to get around national objections to imports is an important feature of the components industry as well as of car assembly. This, of course, makes it rather harder to assess a country's trading success.

Despite the advantages British component manufacturers have of good technology, a comparatively low wage home economy, and established companies, including plants such as Lucas, Keen, Wipac and Lucas, and smaller and more specialized manufacturers of seat belts, tyres, windcreens and bat-

teries, the future is not completely rosy.

The backdrop of a large and healthy home industry for manufacturing and assembling finished vehicles is weakening steadily as imported cars eat away at the home market and exports fail to expand fast enough to compensate. Many believe that this is one reason why the growth in component imports (which has outpaced that of exports for most of the decade) is now accelerating still further.

The United Kingdom's imports of components were 80 per cent higher in the first half of this year than in the same months last year, while exports on the other hand were only 24 per cent up.

Another relatively successful part of the British motor industry has been the commercial vehicle sector. Europe and Africa each take about a third of the United Kingdom's total exports, which were over £500m last year. Nigeria and South Africa are the biggest African markets. Other important markets include the EEC (which accounted for 22 per cent of overseas sales last year), Portugal, Turkey, and Iran.

In contrast to the large foreign destinations of British exports, most of its imported commercial vehicles come from Europe. Last year Sweden alone supplied 30 per cent of the £123m total, and a further 62 per cent came from within the EEC.

Some United Kingdom manufacturers are now beginning to worry that after the success of foreigners in the British car market, a concerted drive to step up the import penetration of the commercial vehicles is now under way.

The Japanese have been especially successful this year in selling car derived vehicles and light vans. They took over 10 per cent of each of these markets in August. European manufacturers, in particular Volvo, Scania, and DAF, have

MOTOR INDUSTRY EXPORTS 1976

	Cars	Commercial vehicles (including buses)	Parts and accessories (in £m)	Tractors	Total
EEC of which:	169	119	587	49	1,020
Benelux	25	21	178	4	241
Germany	30	8	177	4	227
France	25	20	86	6	157
Total Europe	236	186	890	148	1,602
Asia	84	109	135	75	445
Africa	46	185	123	57	443
US	164	2	166	20	360
World	533	548	1,504	356	3,280

been increasing their grip on the prestige extra heavy weight end of the market. Part of the problem is the slow reaction of the British suppliers (chief among them is British Leyland) to the pick-up in home demand.

Another problem for British manufacturers is that the market is less developed in countries which are their main customers are rather erratic purchasers. When foreign exchange becomes tight, as at present in Turkey, exporters cannot rely on prompt payment or a steady flow of orders.

Tractors, and other agricultural vehicles, are big business for British exporters. Exports in the first six months of this year were valued at £217m, nearly 11 per cent of all motor industry exports. Their share has not changed very dramatically in the past few years; it was 9.7 per cent in 1970. When industrial trucks and tractor parts are included it rises to 13.5 per cent of the industry's total exports.

Africa, the EEC, and the other more industrialized European countries, each buy about 15 per cent of British tractor exports. Canada and the United States took 3 per cent and 5 per cent respectively last year, and Japan a further 4.1 per cent.

The gloom and doom about the British motor trade is certainly exaggerated by the tendency to look only at the problems of the car industry. Motor industry exports as a whole still provide as much as an eighth of Britain's total export earnings (not including invisible earnings). However, the recent faster growth of imports than exports—not just of cars but of most motor products—is worrying.

It is little weight to the fears of those who believe that a strong motor industry needs the backdrop of a healthy domestic industry in manufacturing and assembling finished cars and that manufacturing components and parts cannot be a substitute for this, and indeed will not thrive for long without it.

Kenneth Owen

Computer-land's mystique breaks down

"The great palaces will go," declared one speaker at the British Computer Society's Datafair conference in London this week. "The huge, air-conditioned halls, these fortresses, will become monuments to a past technological era."

He was forecasting the demise of large computer centres. In another part of the conference, an IBM brochure began: "Computers have made an outstanding contribution to our life in the last 20 years."

Have they done anything of the kind? And will their places come tumbling down? Up to now, the ways in which computing has developed have certainly not been determined by the people who have had to use the machine. The pattern has been shaped by a fast-moving technology, the marketing policies of the main manufacturer, and the problems and peculiarities of this strange thing called software.

Computer programmes or software are simply the instructions written by humans to tell the computer how to work (the central or operating software) and what to do (the applications programmes). As with human languages, there are many different computer languages, so there are complications of translation from one to another.

And, just to make it really difficult, it is impossible to test in advance all possible combinations of conditions which the programme will handle, so that no programme can be guaranteed foolproof. When faults or "bugs" in software occur, fixing them can cause further errors, and so it goes on.

Against this background, general-purpose computing developed initially in terms of central systems providing data-processing services for various parts of the user organisation. The machines were good at complex scientific calculations; through the software they were

adapted to process (rather clumsily) the large volumes and simple manipulations of commercial data-processing, batch by batch.

Families of computers covering a range of size were introduced by the main manufacturers. As the technology advanced, the machines became smaller and cheaper for a given power; for a while the economies of scale favoured large central machines, and it became possible to communicate with them from afar by remote teleprocessing via telephone lines.

Immediate-response or "on line" methods emerged; remote-access time-sharing services were introduced; further advances in technology led to the development of the microcomputer, and to the concept of distributed networks of smaller computers as an alternative to the large central systems.

("On line" and batch processing are in a sense the data processing of the telephone and the postal service respectively.)

Throughout this period the driving force was the technology, as each new hardware advance was marketed and enthusiastically taken up by the manufacturers. The software did not keep pace, and the data-processing manager was faced with a dilemma: he really needed a permanent capability to get his existing or planned systems working well, rather than jump on to the next technological stepping stone; and yet his professional status appeared to demand the latest in technology.

And because of the mystique that had grown up with the whole business of computing, his own organisation (both the departments he served and the top management above) was largely ignorant of his problems.

The conflict between the temptations of new technology and the real world of the user remains today—and, indeed, has intensified as the rate of change of technology continues to accelerate.

But there are signs (from this week's BCS conference, and elsewhere) that the range of options is now so wide that the user genuinely can now march more effectively and easily than ever before.

Some of the more striking advances concern the magic technology of the microprocessor and microcomputer (to be discussed in a second article next week. But for most users the problems and possibilities of the immediate future will remain those of the "traditional" mainframes and minicomputers.

For computer-using organisations, Mr John Powell of Prudential Assurance took the BCS conference, there is no way back. Computers are indeed here to stay, because

companies are dependent on them. This may be hard to take, because few if any companies deliberately chose to become dependent in the first place.

The gap between technology and effective real-life computing remains. Users continue to be faced with complexity, difficulty and expense. Manufacturers are to blame for this, Mr Powell calls the "maximum credible incompatibility" (incompatibility in computing is a more complex equivalent of not understanding foreign languages or not having the right plug for the right socket), where what is needed is standardization and compatibility.

Some of the large central computer systems have grown into digital dinosaurs—huge systems, rigidly controlled, slow to react to change, their usual power constrained by the size and complexity of the program that are needed simply to keep them alive.

Thus when technology made possible decentralized or distributed systems—putting computer power where it belongs, next to the real user—there was a ready response.

But the other side of the coin is that the price of small, minicomputer-based "business" systems is now so low that individual divisions within a company, or companies within a group, can now acquire and operate their own computers. They are no longer dependent on their central data-processing manager, yet some overall guidance is required.

Business computing, then, is heading towards a distributed rather than centralized system. It is also heading towards the easier use of computers generally (that is, the better design of computer terminals and programs for people); and towards the use of off-the-shelf "packages" of programs since software will remain the big problem.

The mystique is breaking down, as more and more people



Mr Philip Hughes, Logical data-processing manager at must management communications.



Mr John Powell, Prudential Assurance; companies are dependent on computers.

computer people come in contact with computers in their day-to-day work. Overall, the direction is towards more realism in computing—though the users were crying out for more standardization at this week's Datafair.

To be precise, these were not the real users; they were the data-processing managers who up to now have been middle-men between the manufacturers and the real users inside the organization.

As computing moves out to these real users, and converges with telecommunications and other office functions in many novel ways, what lies ahead for the data-processing manager?

To survive, says Mr Philip Hughes of Logical (who gave the palaces-will-go warning), he must manage his organization's communications. This will be the key central service of the future.

For some organizations that future is here already. For others, it will take a long time before separate streams of data, speech, text and other information processing come together into an integrated whole.

Certainly it will be a long time, such is the sheer inertia of existing systems, before the great computer-room palaces become merely objects of curiosity for students of industrial archaeology.

Where new technology was being considered there were three practical uncertainties. First, would the new technology be cost-effective? Secondly, would it be ready and proven for use when needed? His third uncertainty was more subtle. "Will we, in five or 10 years' time, be assembling the components of the new technology into the sort of system that we envisage now, or will some more effective arrangement of components be found?"

Next Friday: the unconventional microcomputers. The author is Technology Correspondent of The Times.

Business Diary: Dutch treatise • Hill Samuel's White

seen the risks of South Africa (ELISA) campaign appears to owe its present success more to pressure from the Hague rather than to any winged of conscience in London and Street.

ELISA claims to have persuaded the Midland Bank to ease such activity but all that has happened is that the European-American Banking Corporation—a consortium where Midland has a one-fifth stake—is not to grant any further credit to South Africa.

That apart demand has been heavy for western rather than industrial purposes, poured on by the United States dollar's weakness, rising United States interest rates and the lacklustre performance of the Dow Jones Average, along with that.

The key to the future performance of old will be its international monetary role and the changes in the IMF articles have been ratified and central banks are allowed

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White's brief at Hill Samuel is to diversify project finance from EOGD-led credits for British exporters to a "more global role", that of financing projects led by multinational corporations and financing.

Win one, lose one. Eric Wain, the Secretary of State for Industry, has at last, we hear, found somebody to take on one of the toughest jobs around—board member for personnel at British Shipbuilders.

He takes over as managing director of the Hill Samuel project finance operation from John Macdonald, who remains deputy chairman to John Elton and a director of the bank. White, on the other hand, remains a honorary citizen of San Francisco, for with California property values jumping by as much as a third a year, he can't bring himself to sell his house.

White told Business Diary yesterday that though San Francisco may be one of the most desirable places in the world in which to live, it was



Hill Samuel's Warren White: the strains of San Francisco.

trying for a bigger slice of the project finance market, to judge from the appointment both to the board of the bank and to the managing directorship of the project finance subsidiary of Warren White.

White, who starts this week, comes to Hill Samuel from Bechtel, the big private San Francisco engineering group, where he was a vice-president and the general manager of the project finance operation.

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FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Nervous selling after firm start

The opposing influences of lower interest rate hopes and potential industrial unrest over pay continued to dominate market sentiment.

But after a firm start the "bears" ultimately prevailed as high selling at the best levels lowered prices sharply over a broad front. The FT index, 63 ahead at 10 am, closed just 1.9 up at 5187. The early strength stemmed from another good performance by sterling and the growing conviction that the Minimum Lending Rate will be cut by a half point today. But

up to three-quarters better and just a shade off the top by the close.

Longer maturities saw a good two-way trade but some profit taking before the week-end pruned early rises of a full point back to one-half to three-quarters by the finish.

In a largely ignored industrial leaders sections Metal Box, rejuvenated by the green light on prices, met with solid investment support and rose 12p to 356p, by far the strongest performance among the big names.

Figures from EMI though far from encouraging, prompted a good deal of "bear" closing and the shares finished 6p to the good at 222p.

Though prices were well below their best by the close the prospect of an autumn Budget brought a number of strong rises in the retailing and consumer sectors.

Demand in a thin market spurred a rise of 13p to 243p for Sainsbury while Rowntree, another where shares are hard

to come by, ended 10p up to 200p.

With an international sugar agreement thought to be not far off Tate & Lyle reversed its recent trend finishing 4p to 200p. Other bright spots were to be found in Nurdin & Peacock 8p to 100p, Richards 10p to 285p, Linford 7p to 375p, Thorn 10p to 418p, and Prestige 8p to 170p. Motor distributors

Medley 5p to 339p and Lex 3p to 85p both gained ground on the hope that motor hire purchase restrictions might be

eased as part of any package. One store to lose ground was Austin Reed "A" which eased a point to 86p after figures.

In the oil sector, recover hopes helped Berry Wiggins jump 5p to 31p but Gas & Oil Acreage slipped 6p to 112p after a "dry" well report.

Tesco, at 47p, were a subdued market in front of another seminar being held in Scotland last night. The purpose, it was reported, was to reassure institutions about the implications of the group's current "market share" policy.

After the previous day's sharp take-over talks had been called off, Tesco's shares soared 420p on widespread talk of another bid in the offing. Though off the top at the close the shares finished at 400p, a gain of 75p. Speculative demand boosted Stewart Plastics 10p to 104p. Building industry shares saw some good demand, with both W. J. Glossop at 50p and John Mowlem, up 7p to 132p, responding favourably to figures. After a member's resignation, Robert Adams rose another 3p to 75p while two crane companies, general pence to the good yard, Richards & Wallington at 67p and GW Sparrow at 124p.

The implications of lower interest rates for housebuilding lifted both Redland 3p to 151p and Marley 2p to 96p.

Latest results

Company	Sales	Profits	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
Int or Fin	£m	£m	per share	pence	date	total
Amal Tin Nig (F)	(—)	1.1(0.25)	(—)	2.5(NUL)	29/11	2.5(NUL)
Beaumont Gp (I)	2.1(2.2)	0.3(0.20)	3.4(2.3)	1.0(0.8)	8/12	2.5(NUL)
Berry Wiggins (F)	17.1(17.7)	3.0(3.8)	(—)	NUL(1.9)	(—)	NUL(1.9)
Can O'Sea Pk (F)	(—)	10.3(18.2b)	(—)	30(25)	(—)	30(25)
W. Canning (I)	13.5(11.9)	0.75(0.60)	3.3(2.6)	1.5(0.44)	1/12	(3.1)
Capefels (F)	18.0(15.3)	2.2(0.94)	5.85(2.62)	0.5(0.8)	24/11	1.7(1.5)
Clive Discount (I)	(—)	14.7(116.8)	(—)	2.0(1.3)	17/11	4.2(5)
Cope Adams (F)	35.7(116.8)	9.5(6.1)	11.43(7.7)	1.7(1.8)	4/12	3.1(2.5)
EMI (F)	85.1(67.4)	64.7(59.3)	25.7(23.1)	5.83(7.5)	3/	9.2(6.8)
Eag Asia Ltd (F)	(—)	0.11(0.04c)	33.4(15c)	14(15.1c)	1/12	18.87(9.38c)
W. J. Glossop (I)	5.9(5.8)	0.39(0.38)	(—)	1.4(1.2)	18/11	(3.5)
Warne Wiggins (F)	145.7(116.8)	0.21(0.17)	2.60(2.05)	1.0(0.7)	16/12	(2.4)
Holt Lloyd (I)	15.53(11.29)	1.5(1.15)	7.5(5.6)	2.75(2.0)	16/12	(5.0)
Hunting Ass (I)	39.9(32.5)	2.0(1.6)	10.4(9.16)	1.35(1.25)	15/11	(2.6)
IND Group (I)	3.5(10.3)	0.19(0.42)	(—)	2.1(2.1)	25/11	8.34(8.3)
Marley & Wile (I)	11.62(7.24)	1.1(0.61)	(—)	(—)	(—)	(—)
Midford Docks (I)	0.61(0.59)	0.02(0.05)	(—)	(—)	(—)	(—)
Morgan Crucible (I)	45.75(36.77)	6.05(3.98)	7.2(4.2)	3.1(2.75)	3/1	(4.72)
John Mowlem (I)	58.2(52.7)	2.7(1.4)	10.14(7.21)	2.18(2.18)	8/12	(3.0)
Prentice Hall (F)	(—)	0.17(0.35)	(—)	(—)	(—)	(—)
James Tele (F)	35.7(46.3)	7.7(5.5)	(—)	(—)	(—)	(—)
Austin Reed (I)	15.7(14.4)	0.74(0.59)	(—)	1.0(0.8)	3/12	(2.5)
John Swire (I)	36.2(25.6)	13.7(10.2)	(—)	(—)	(—)	(—)
Warne Wiggins (I)	10.8(8.8)	0.63(0.35)	4.3(3.8)	1.32(1.08)	1/12	(2.1)

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.515. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net. a Loss. b Dollars. c Six months. d Forecast.

Morgan Crucible up 51 pc in first half

By Our Financial Staff

Fatter margins were enjoyed by Morgan Crucible in the first half of this year. On the back of group sales 24 per cent up at £45.75m, pre-tax profits jumped by 51.8 per cent to £6.05m. Profits were arrived at after charging better depreciation charges of £1m, against £18.00m.

The trading margin reached 15.4 per cent, compared with 13.3 per cent in the first half of last year and 14.7 per cent for the whole of 1976. Earnings per ordinary share rose from 4.2p to 7.2p and an interim payment, gross, of 4.69p is being paid. This includes a small third dividend for 1976. An interim of 4.2p was paid this time last year.

A breakdown shows that sales in all divisions—carbon, thermic, axon and other products—were higher.

Trading profits were up in all sections, except for "other products", which tumbled from £124,000 to £39,000. The holding company's results was also down, from £381,000 to £202,000.

Mr Ian Weston Smith, the

chairman, reports that while the first-half's results compare favourably with 1976, the recent weakness in world markets has had some impact on trading margins in the second quarter.

This, plus seasonal influences, will also have squeezed third-quarter margins. Commenting on the fact that "stimuli" are approaching the economies of the industrialized free-world nations, he declares that, assuming they prove to be more than cosmetic, the benefits to Morgan should be widespread and threefold.

Firstly, recent capital investment provides Morgan with capacity in all its factories; secondly, the best-treatment and processing industries of the world must resume on a very large scale; thirdly, "vigour in the market place" had been—and is increasing Morgan's share of a number of product and geographical markets.

For 1976, Morgan made a record £99.9m pre-tax and it seems likely to top this this year. The shares, however, dipped yesterday by 3p to 126p.

Upward trend likely to continue at Holt Lloyd

Increased sales both at home and overseas have spelt a 38 per cent pre-tax profit leap to £1.6m in the 28 weeks to September 10 for car-care products group Holt Lloyd International.

Sales increased by £4.2m to £15.5m with the biggest increase coming in the automotive and aerosols division.

The full benefits of the 1975 merger of Holt Products and Lloyds Industries International are now being felt, says chairman Mr Tom Heywood and he forecasts that the above average rate of growth for the group will continue during the second half.

Business appointments

Mr S E Baucher is new chairman of Norwest Holst

Mr N. H. de Mare has resigned from the board of Norwest Holst but will remain a director.

Mr S. E. Baucher has been made chairman.

Messrs R. Briggs, P. J. Healey and Mrs. Whitmore have been made directors of Triplex Foundries Group.

Mr R. R. Walker and Mr A. Cooper have joined the board of Barrett and Co.

FINANCIAL NEWS

Algerian contract hits Berry Wiggins but recovery on way

Alison Mitchell

Berry Wiggins is back on the recovery. Following the loss of the Algerian contract, which came mainly from a pre-tax profit of £405,000 for the first four months of this year, Mr Wiggins, chairman, is confident that the company's recovery will be maintained throughout 1977.

The optimistic forecast was enough for the Stock Market yesterday where Berry shares rose to 31p.

However, last year's losses of £1.1m, which many city analysts had predicted, have now been reduced to £1.7m. The group plunged £3m into the red. This compares with a 1975 profit of £1.8m.

The loss on drilling contracts in Algeria, where Berry has a 50 per cent stake, was £2.4m while drilling elsewhere made a profit of £1.9m. There was also a £311,000 loss from the Algerian contract, mainly from the Algerian 50 per cent-owned drilling contract.

Berry's stake was sold at a loss of £2.4m. The group last week with a net loss of £1.7m.

Although Berry announced it had ended its Algerian contract without any payments, it has had to accept exceptional losses of £1.5m. The group acquired its Algerian drilling contract when it took over KCA Drilling Group in 1974.

Mr Bristol expects to have a rise of 10p to 11p in the next few months, and with demand for these types of rigs outstripping supply, he foresees no difficulties acquiring new contracts.

Berry has now shed much of its peripheral activity and is concentrating chiefly on drilling and drilling muds. As such the group intends changing its name to KCA International, subject to shareholders' approval.

The chairman also hints at a successful drilling on block 16/26 in the North Sea by announcing that Transocean, the operator, will be making a statement soon relating to the outcome of the second well. Although the first well did show traces of oil it was termed non-commercial but the block in which Berry has a 8.4 per cent stake, is situated just west of the BP Andrew Field.

Despite the four-month recovery, Berry made a £305,000 pre-tax profit of turnover of £8.3m in the period to April 30 this year—there is to be no dividend for shareholders this time round.



Mr Paul Bristol, chairman of Berry Wiggins.

Associates still help to boost J Mowlem

Victor Felstead

The Middlesex-based international construction group of John Mowlem could be heading for record profits again this year.

In the first six months of this year, trading profits were almost a third higher at £1.97m. But, repeating the pattern of last year, associates' results were more than doubled from £770,000 to £1,770,000. This pushed up total pre-tax profits by 46 per cent to £2.74m.

Moreover, Sir Edgar Beck, the chairman, declares that the second-half figures should be in line with the first half. This could mean a pre-tax total of about £5.5m for 1977, compared with last year's £4.25m, which itself was a rise of 83 per cent on 1975.

Total turnover was 13.8 per cent greater at £68.95m, including associates sales of £7.68m, against £5.21m. Taking out the figures for associates, margins have expanded from 2.84 to 3.39 per cent.

With earnings per share up from 7.21p to 10.14p, the board is paying an interim dividend of 2.27p, gross, a departure from the normal practice of one dividend a year. For 1976, this was 5p gross (adjusted for scrip).

Sir Edgar reports that in the United Kingdom, the economic situation and restriction on capital expenditure in the public sector inevitably led to some reduction in the group's order book, although the actual workload will continue for some time at a "satisfactory level". He hopes for Government action in the next 12 months to help the industry.

However, "strenuous efforts overseas" are bearing fruit and the chairman hopes turnover and profits from here will help to replace the drop in work at home.

Pre-tax profits of £5.5m for the year would mean a total of 29 per cent on 1976. Not nearly so dramatic as the jump last time, but good enough considering present conditions.

In his last annual report, Sir Edgar commented on the overseas projects which, by and large, were doing quite well. Although the volume of work available in the Middle East was running at a high level, he reported that competition was keen. However, the outlook for the year suggested an increase in turnover and profitability. At the date of the last annual report, the Kuwait Investment Office held nearly a tenth of the equity.

Diversification tailors well into Austin Reed

Ashley Draker

Topping £2m for the first time in 1976-77 after two years of falling profits, menswear retailers and manufacturers Austin Reed is now finding diversification beginning to pay off. For the latest half it reports a 34 per cent increase in profits, and Mr Barry Reed, chairman, believes all the indications point to an overall improvement at year-end.

Pre-tax profit for the half to August 6 jumped from £559,000 to £754,000 on turnover, after allowing for the disposal of uneconomic retail branches and the closure of one factory, up from £14.5m to £15.8m. Meanwhile the half-time payment is lifted from 1.29p gross to 1.51p.

Without quantifying, Mr Reed adds that the move into ladieswear and younger men's fashions is beginning to make a "valuable" contribution. For the rest of the year, while the greater stability of the pound is unlikely to provide the windfall business from foreign sources as last autumn, he is confident that the more buoyant conditions in the United Kingdom "will lead to an overall increase in profit coupled with a higher return on investment at year-end."

The turnover rise, Mr Reed says, means that Austin Reed is holding its own in volume terms despite the general difficulties of the menswear industry. For the while, tourist trade remains good and the bulk of the provincial shops reports a "healthy" upturn.

With the exception of Sweden, now undergoing a severe economic depression, the overseas outlets improved their results, though currency conversion showed a small loss against a gain in 1976.

All the ladies' shops are within established Austin Reed outlets, selling a selection of country casuals clothing and Jaeger merchandise.

Higher royalties were also expected in the full year from the "British Look" in country tweeds and formal clothes. Much in the ascendency again, as mentioned in the annual statement, this has given fresh impetus to the business of its existing licensee in the United States and Japan.

Mr Reed back in April said that this greater interest in United Kingdom fashions and the excellent standing of the group's British trademark had led to inquiries for licensing or franchising arrangements from various parts of the world. A number of these were being followed up.

Another activity in which further growth was seen was in sales to other organizations.

Takeover search by Cement-Roadstone

Michael Clark

Ireland's biggest industrial company, Cement-Roadstone Holdings, which has been on the prowl for takeovers in the United Kingdom for the past year, has so far found 100 potentially on offer. But Mr Jim Culliton, chief executive, has not yet found the right deal.

Many companies offered so far, all in the construction or allied fields, are subsidiaries of other groups. There were plenty of hire-off situations, but not one which measured up to the group's expectations. Despite this the group is still actively searching and hopes that in about 12 months it will buy a company.

What he is looking for is a company the size of Cement-Roadstone's existing United Kingdom subsidiary, Forticrete, which it bought in 1961. This is now heading for record profits of £500,000 this time round.

In the meantime the group had enough spare cash to go looking for a "significant dollar investment". In this context a small team from the company is in New York prepared to spend about \$20m. There is plenty on offer says Mr Culliton, but in America it may take two years to pull off the right deal.

The group is not looking for anything small but mainly an established well-run company. "We would rather pay over the odds than attempt to pick up a bargain. We are not looking for turn-around situations."

Meanwhile, Cement-Roadstone is well pleased with its operations in Ireland and may also buy further businesses in that country.

The new 1 million-ton cement plant at Platin, Ireland, started up last week and is expected to be producing "saleable cement" within a couple of weeks.

Hunting Associated at £2m sees further improvement

On turnover up from £32.6m to £40m, Hunting Associated Industries, the aviation support, engineering and technical services group, has turned in a pre-tax profit of £2m in the first six months of this year. This compares with £1.6m for the same period in 1976 but does not match the £2.34m earned in the second half.

Mr L. C. Hunting, chairman, sees the results as satisfactory and looks to a further improvement in the second half.

Associated companies chipped in with a £51,000 profit, against £30,000 for the first half last time, but the results of the Rhodesian subsidiary, Field Industries Africa, have not been included in the figures.

For shareholders there is a stepped-up interim dividend of 2p gross, against 1.9p last time, and the directors predict a maximum final of 4.46p.

In a flat market yesterday the shares firmed slightly to close 2p higher at 17.5p.

Allotment of South Crofty

Joseph Sebag says that there were 36,500 applications from the public for the offer for sale, totalling 241,907,000 shares in South Crofty.

There were also 57 employee preferential applications totalling 204,700 shares. These have been allotted in full with a maximum of 17,500 shares. For applications up to 10,000 shares there will be a weighted ballot for 200 shares. Applications for 11,000 to 12,000 shares will get 200 shares; 13,000 to 17,000 will get 300 shares while 18,000 to 20,000 will get 400.

Applications above this level will receive 2 per cent of application.

Illingworth Morris off to a good start

Mr Ivan Hill, chairman of the Illingworth Morris wool and

Estates & General

to recoup loan

Estates & General Investment is selling the Victoria Hotel, Nottingham, for completion on November 1 for £645,000. The hotel was the major asset of Castlepoint Properties, now in liquidation, and the security for a loan by E & G to Castlepoint of £700,000.

To protect its security E & G has been operating the hotel by agreement with the joint liquidators of Castlepoint and also owned the contents which have a book value of about £75,000. The result of the sale will be the recovery of about £625,000, and E & G has been advised that it has a claim of about £75,000 plus interests and costs against a third party.

Midland offshoot

buys XM Corp

London American Finance Corporation, a member of the Midland Bank Group, has further extended its international marketing activities through the acquisition, for \$12.25m cash, of XM Corporation of New York, a provider of export marketing and import distribution services.

Finance for the acquisition has been provided by Midland Bank and, following an increase in the issued capital and a redistribution of shareholdings, Midland has increased its stake in London American from 52 per cent to 75 per cent with ICFC holding the remaining 25 per cent.

B F Goodrich expects second-half downturn

American tyre, chemical and industrial group B. F. Goodrich expects a second-half downturn in earnings to be down the first half, lowered by a number of factors. Earnings for the year however may still exceed 1973's record \$39m.

First-half profits were \$8m up from \$13m a year earlier, when a strike by the Rubber Workers Union pressed results in 1976. B. F. Goodrich earned \$8m.

Foreign currency translation, mostly due to the appreciation of the Japanese yen, could lower net income up to \$8m in the second half and should have the minimum impact. Goodrich

International

has a minority interest in a Japanese company, Reuter.

Inchcape venture

Banque Nationale de Paris and Inchcape & Co have agreed to form a joint subsidiary, Compex SA, for the promotion of French exports. BNP said its 2m francs capital will be held 25 per cent by Inchcape Export, 25 per cent by Inchcape's French subsidiary, Fescaud et Cie International, 20 per cent by BNP and 30 per cent by its subsidiary Intercomi.

Briefly

Malayalam Plantations tumbles

Because of a big drop in remittances from India, total pre-tax profits of Malayalam Plantations slumped from £793,000 to £239,000 in the year to March 31. Profit earned in the United Kingdom rose from £75,000 to £136,000, but remittances were down from £719,000 to £102,000. As known, the total gross payout has been cut from 2.25p to 1.74p. The results for the year in India, in rupees, jumped from 22.1m to 73.2m pre-tax.

BRITISH CAR AUCTIONS

Park Place Investments has been informed that British Car Auctions has sold 400,000 ordinary shares (8.5 per cent).

BRITISH ELECTRONIC CONTROLS

SRE Electronics the company controlled by three executive directors, urges shareholders to take no action on offer by Sans Trust.

JOHN SWIRE & SONS LIMITED

Interim results (unaudited) for 6 months ended 30th June 1977

	Six months to 30th June 1977	Six months to 30th June 1976
Group turnover	£m 39.2	£m 35.8
Group profit	8.0	7.0
Share of profit of associated companies	7.7	3.2
Profit before tax	13.7	10.2
Taxation	(5.0)	(2.5)
Minority interests	(0.1)	—
Profit attributable to shareholders	8.6	7.7
Includes profit on realisation of assets	1.5	2.5

CANNING

W. Canning Limited

Extracts from the Chairman's Interim Statement

- Sales in the first six months were 28% higher than the comparable period of 1976, whilst profits were 24% higher.
- The capital investment programme initiated in 1976 is being completed to schedule. The extension to the main engineering company is now in operation and a new distribution centre will be completed by the end of the year. During the year the company has formed new subsidiaries in France and Germany, and purchased 25% of the share capital of Elga Products Limited.
- In the absence of any deterioration in the level of activity during the latter part of 1977 it is expected that the Group results will show further progress. The Board would expect to recommend total dividends (excluding a supplementary dividend) for the year of 3.526p per unit (1976—3.175p per unit).
- An interim dividend of 1.5p per unit (1976—0.44p per unit) has been declared for the year ending 31st December 1977. A supplementary dividend in respect of 1976 arising from the change in Advance Corporation Tax amounting to 0.64179p per unit will be paid with the interim dividend. Both dividends will be paid on 1st December 1977.

Summary of Interim Results for the year 1977

	Unaudited Half Year	1976	Audited Full Year
	1977	1976	1976
	£000	£000	£000
Sales	15,319	11,972	24,099
Profit before Tax and Extraordinary Profit	751	605	1,244
Taxation	391	320	656
Extraordinary Profit	2	—	32
Profit attributable to Stockholders	362	285	620
Earnings per Stock Unit	3.3p	2.6p	5.4p

W. Canning Limited, Great Hampton Street, Birmingham B18 6AS

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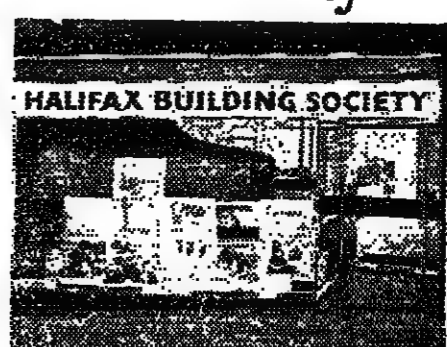
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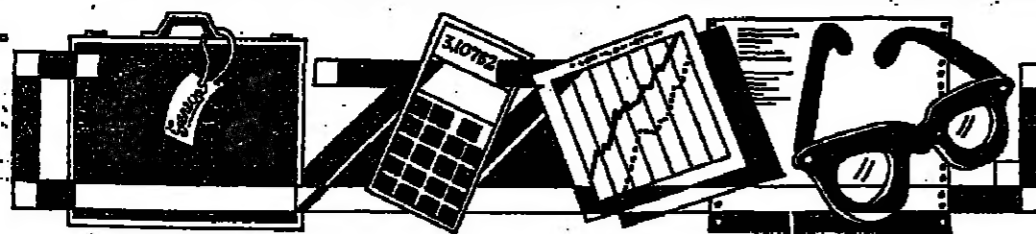
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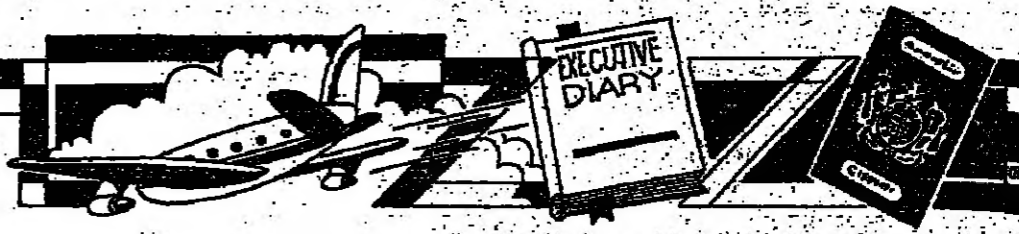
	1977	1976	1975	1974
	£	£	£	£
Turnover	3,456,437	2,389,647	2,627,902	2,021,060
Profit before tax	247,778	205,196	194,863	166,243
Profit after tax	114,549	96,596	93,363	80,249
Ordinary dividends <i>(gross equivalent)</i>	41.92%	38.11%	34.65%	31.5%
Earnings per share	5.73p	4.83p	4.67p	4.01p

For a copy of the Report and Accounts apply to **The Secretary,
Best and May Limited, 27/29 Homedale Road, Bromley Kent, BR2 9TB.**

[illegible][illegible]



£6,000 plus appointments



South West Thames
Regional Health Authority

Regional Administrator

Salary scale £10,401-£12,495 per annum
plus £354 p.a. London Weighting
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non-enhanceable supplement

This post becomes vacant on 1st January 1978 upon secondment of the present holder to Saudi Arabia, prior to retirement.

As Chief Administrative Officer of the Authority, the Regional Administrator is Secretary to the Authority and concerned with advising the Chairman and Members over the whole range of the Authority's work. The person appointed will liaise with the Department of Health and Social Security individually and collectively with Regional Administrator colleagues, act as the channel of communication with Area Health Authorities and outside bodies, and be a member and co-ordinator of the Regional Team of Officers.

He/she will directly manage a division of 235 people, covering administrative and committee responsibilities and the development of the planning, personnel, management services and supplies functions. The post also involves administrative responsibility for ambulance services including the whole of the London Ambulance Service.

The Region, comprising five Area Health Authorities, covers the south-west quadrant of London and the whole of Surrey and West Sussex.

Candidates, preferably graduates with appropriate professional qualifications, must have considerable administrative and management ability and be aware of the major problems facing the National Health Service in the aftermath of re-organisation. Preference will be given to persons having Health Service experience.

Application forms, with further information, from Headquarters Personnel Officer, Ref: 487, South West Thames Regional Health Authority, 40 Eastbourne Terrace, London W2 3QR. Closing date for completed applications: 21st October 1977.

MERCHANT BANKING

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Applications, enclosing a concise curriculum vitae, should be sent in confidence to:

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As Librarian and Keeper of the Records the Director is responsible for the collections of western and oriental books, manuscripts, drawings and photographs and for the custody of the archives, private papers, official publications and maps.

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Candidates, men and women preferably aged between 40 and 55, must be of high academic standing

and be suitably experienced. They should normally be professionally qualified in, and have had experience of, librarianship and/or archive administration.

Non-contributory pension scheme. For further details and an application form (to be returned by 8 November 1977) write to Civil Service Commission, Alencon Link, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 1JB, or telephone Basingstoke (0256) 68551 (answering service operates outside office hours). Please quote ref: 6/9599/1

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

The Advertising Standards Authority

The Advertising Standards Authority Limited is an independent body, set up and financed by the British advertising business to supervise the self-regulatory system of advertisement control.

The Authority's London-based Secretariat has to keep pace with an increased work-load as its role becomes better known and appreciated. Two senior posts must now be filled.

Deputy to Director

The smooth working of the Authority's monitoring, investigatory and complaint-handling functions is central to the efficiency of self-regulation, and the Deputy Director will require administrative skills of a high order, enabling him to deploy the

Authority's resources in these areas to maximum advantage. A practical knowledge of the way advertising works will be a distinct advantage, as will be the ability to master complex briefs swiftly and to translate theoretical analysis into practical action. (Ref. No. ADD 75)

Director of Public Affairs

Good communications with the public, with the press and with Government are essential for the Authority's effective operation, and the Director of Public Affairs will require extensive experience of how best to develop and monitor such

contacts, perhaps gained as a journalist or in a public relations role.

The ability to write quickly, simply and clearly is basic to the job, but political sensitivity and a grasp of the nature and purpose of self-regulation is also essential. (Ref. No. APA 86)

These are very important appointments and substantial salaries will be paid to the successful applicants.

Applications should be made in strictest confidence (quoting the appropriate reference number), to

L. H. Owens, Hughes Owens & Hewitt Ltd., 6-8 Old Bond Street, London W.1., who have been retained to advise on these appointments. No information will be passed to the Authority without the applicant's prior permission.

The Advertising Standards Authority Ltd.

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Interviews will be held in London
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BOX 2664 J., THE TIMES

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01-759 7362
01-759 7364

for an appointment.

Interviews will be held at the Skyways Hotel on 10 and 11 October next from 09.00 hours.

COUNTY TREASURER

£14,904 x £294 (3) = £15,786
(+ £208 per annum supplement)

Applications are invited for the post of County Treasurer which is shortly to become vacant.

Applicants must hold a recognised accountancy qualification, preferably C.I.P.F.A., and have considerable local government and/or managerial experience at a senior level capable of organising the efficient operation of a large professional Department and of contributing towards the development of corporate management policies and practices within the Authority.

GMC
Greater Manchester Council

Full details of the post and application forms (returnable by 22nd October 1977) obtainable from the County Personnel Officer, GMC, County Hall, Piccadilly Gardens, Manchester M60 2BP.

Assistant Actuary

Albany Life wishes to recruit an Assistant Actuary to work at their Potters Bar office. This job provides an outstanding opportunity for a young actuary to gain experience in all aspects of actuarial work. Albany Life, which started business in the U.K. in 1975, has become well established in the unit linked savings market, and is owned by the American General Group of insurance companies, assets of which exceed £2,800 million.

Ideally the candidate will be aged between 21 and 28, and have passed at least six actuarial exams or be recently qualified. Experience in the development of unit linked policies and of computer programming would be an advantage. Salary is negotiable but would be in the region of £5,500 for a recently qualified Fellow.

Please apply enclosing a C.V. to:

Albany Life Assurance
M. R. Granville, F.I.A., Actuary,
Albany Life Assurance Company Ltd.,
Station House, Potters Bar, Herts. EN6 1AJ.

ACCOUNTANT

American Engineering/Construction firm opening London office possibly in Richmond area, about end October. Young, energetic, with experience U.S. Accounting procedures, beneficial previous experience with letters of credit, procurement, construction equipment. Will be a demanding position with a small office group.

Send résumé with current photo to:

Box 11680, THE HAGUE, THE NETHERLANDS

LARGE MULTI-NATIONAL ORGANISATION

seeks aggressive self-motivated Middle Management Executive for Europe Operations. Must be fluent in Spanish, Italian or French, 2 or more years experience required in household chemical and/or packaging industry. Preferable from purchasing activities.

Responsibilities to include much contact with manufacturers and supplier purchasing; expediting, some inventory control. Must be able to travel. Excellent pay and benefits. Tremendous opportunity for rapid advancement.

Possible relocation to Geneva area required.

Please ring 0532 468403 for London interview.

STORE DESIGN AND SHOP FITTING SPECIALIST

Prominent U.S. store design firm has opening to creative and experienced store designer, knowledgeable in modular wall and fixture, computer systems. Opportunity for world-wide travel and temporary or permanent relocation in the United States. Excellent remuneration and benefits.

Send full resume of professional experience to:

THE DOODY COMPANY

1 Elystan Street, London, S.W.3.

GEOPHYSICISTS

Cities Service Europe-Africa Petroleum Corporation, a wholly owned subsidiary of Cities Service Company, has several new positions available on its seismic interpretations staff in its New Ventures Office in London which office has responsibility for Europe, the Mediterranean area and North Africa. Future transfers outside of England within the international petroleum exploration area of the Cities Service Company organisation are a distinct possibility.

Applicants should have a degree in Geology or Geophysics and must have at least 3 to 5 years of current seismic interpretation experience.

Interviews will be held in London early in November 1977 and we intend to fill these vacancies shortly thereafter.

Written applications should contain full details about educational background and professional experience.

Please address your application to R. F. Schwab, Exploration Manager, Cities Service Europe-Africa Petroleum Corporation, 197 Knightsbridge, London SW7 1RB.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES FALCON ARAB SERVICES LIMITED

The following qualified personnel are required now:

PROJECT MANAGER (aged 40-45). Sound technical training in mechanical and/or electrical services. Will head a composite team of engineers and trade supervisors.

CONTRACTS MANAGER (Civil Engineer), A.M.I.C.E. Ability to take control for contracts to the value of £20,000,000.

ARCHITECT, A.R.I.B.A. Knowledge of large construction projects in Middle East, i.e., hotels, hospitals, department stores, etc.

CIVIL ENGINEER (Structural), A.M.I.C.E. Knowledge of variety of projects in the construction industry.

QUANTITY SURVEYOR, F.R.I.C.S. Assessing and estimation experience required.

CONTRACTS ENGINEER. Responsible for building and control of site, setting out quality control and involved in reinforcement steel concrete.

GENERAL FOREMAN. Qualified tradesman with long experience within the building and construction industry.

A minimum of five years' experience essential. Free married accommodation, company car, air travel, etc.

For further details and initial interview ring:

Miller & McNish Associates

(Personnel Consultants)

44 Wexley House,

320 Regent Street,

London, W.1.

01-637 7868

INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE SEARCH PART TIME RESEARCH EXECUTIVE

This appointment will ideally suit an 'early retired' senior executive from a large corporation or similar senior ex-service officer. Based on our clients' offices in Central London but working largely from home, the research executive carries out much of the detailed work involved in top level executive search. Our clients are well known, of impeccable reputation and well established. The work load may vary from week to week and actual remuneration will depend on the hours worked. Contact in the first instance:

Philip Plumley,
Plumley/Endicott & Associates Ltd.,
Management Selection Consultants,
Premier House, 150 Southampton Row,
London, WC1B 5AL. Tel: 01-278 3117.

Again next Friday
£6,000 plus Appointments
for details ring 01-278 9161
or Manchester 061-834 1234

